ACTIVITY REPORT

OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

2004 | 2005

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

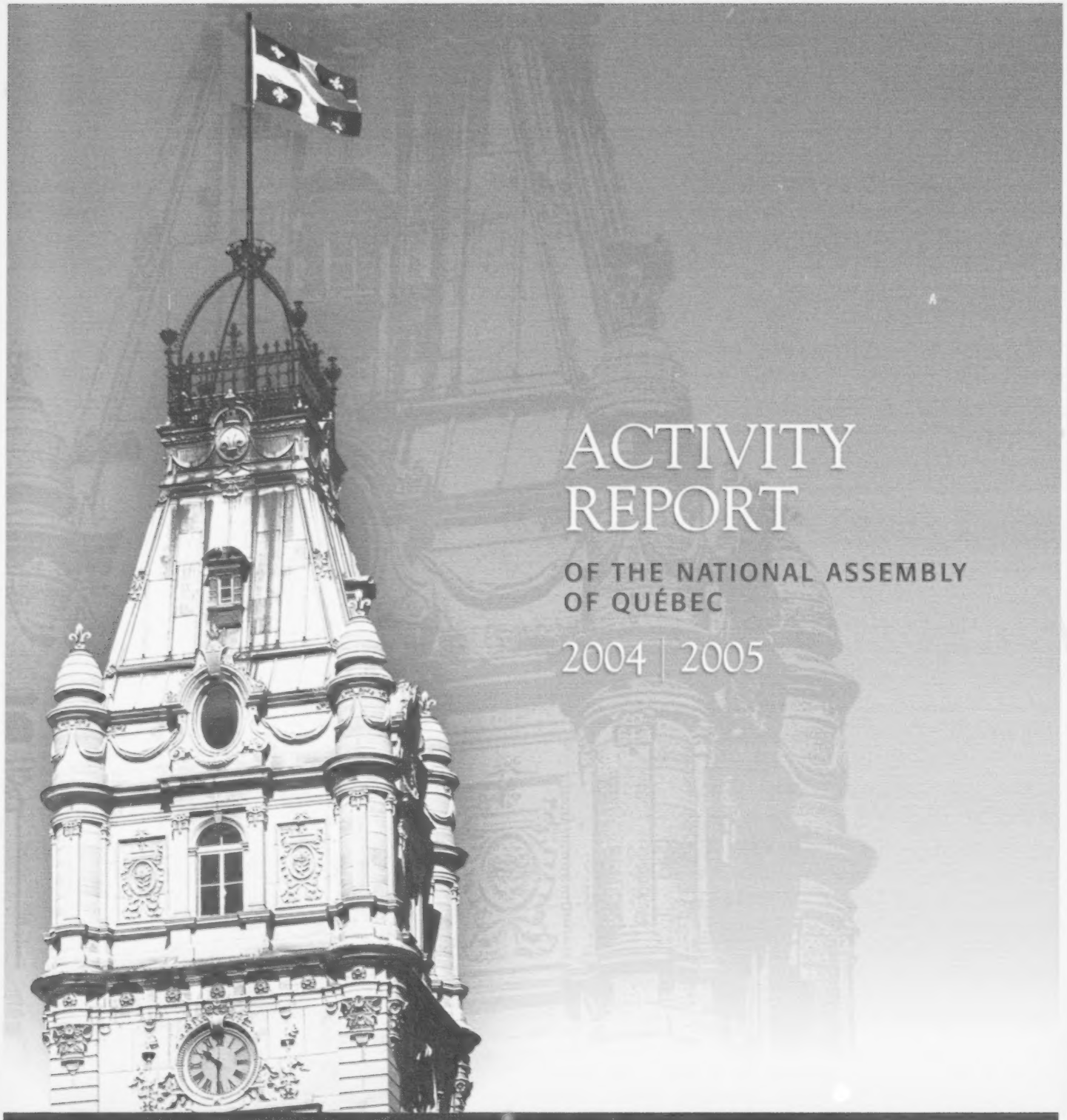

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface 5

Foreword 6

The National Assembly 7
- its mission 8
- the Members of the 37th Legislature 9
- the seating plan of the Assembly as at 31 March 2005 14

Parliamentary Work 16
- the schedule of Assembly sittings 16
- assessment of work at the Assembly 17
- the standing committees 21

The Citizens 32
- an Assembly that responds to the needs of the population 32
- the educational activities 32
- an Assembly that is open to the citizens 36
- a forum for cultural exchanges 38
- communications 39

Parliamentary Diplomacy 40
- multilateral relations 40
- bilateral relations 43
- interparliamentary cooperation 45
- the official visits 46

The Heritage 48
- the documentary heritage 48
- the architectural and urban heritage 50

The Administrative Organization 52
- the administrative structure of the Assembly 52
- the *Strategic Plan of the Administration of the National Assembly, 2004-2009* 53
- the personnel 53
- the technological support 56
- the National Assembly expenditure for 2004-2005 58

Appendices
- bills passed in 2004-2005 60
- mandates carried out by the standing committees in 2004-2005 63
- the allowances and amounts granted to Members in 2004-2005 67
- the mandates of the administrative units 68

Some practical information 71

Preface

I am pleased to present to you the *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec for 2004-2005*. This year the parliamentary sector was marked by the arrival of four Members following by-elections. Several events have also influenced the work of our Members. The parliamentary reform project ranks first among them.

In June 2004, I tabled a parliamentary reform proposal that focusses on four major themes which will enable the National Assembly to satisfy the new imperatives of our society. Another reform project which also concentrates on four primary objectives was submitted on the same occasion by the Government House Leader and Member for Saint-Laurent, Mr. Jacques P. Dupuis.

The National Assembly has taken yet another step to encourage closer relations with the citizenry by conducting a survey on the *Knowledge and perception citizens have of the National Assembly and the Members*. I had the opportunity to reveal the results during a press conference held in June 2004. This important study enabled us to undertake a reflection on improving our means of communicating with the citizens.

Furthermore, the desire of the National Assembly to better inform citizens on the institution was expressed when I undertook a second tour of Québec high schools, and also through the welcoming of several cultural communities at the Parliament Building. The tour of the schools gave me the opportunity to share my passion for politics with young people, while allowing them as well to discover the thousand and one facets of our parliamentary life.

Increasingly, the National Assembly of Québec is also proving to be a forum for exchanges and culture. Let us mention here Political Book Day and the exhibition entitled *The Civil Code: A Family History*, two events that came into existence within its walls in the course of the past year.

For over half a century, the National Assembly has established an important network of relations with several members of Parliaments throughout the world. The circle of our bilateral relations has widened with the creation, in the past year, of the New Brunswick-Québec Parliamentary Association. Moreover, in September 2004, the National Assembly hosted the 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, in collaboration with the Canadian Federal section and the Ontario section. This event brought 650 delegates to Québec City, including more than 150 Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Legislative Assemblies representing 50 of the 53 countries forming the Commonwealth.

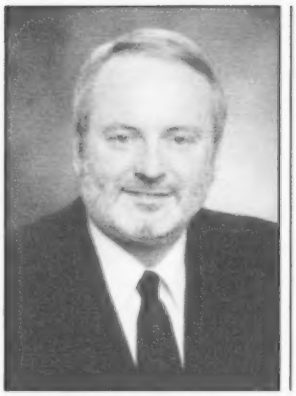
I leave you to the reading of this Report which, I hope, will enable you to discover the abundant wealth of our parliamentary world.

The President of the National Assembly,

Michel Bissonnet

Michel Bissonnet

Foreword



Another year of work rife with developments has ended at the National Assembly of Québec. This Activity Report provides an overview of the numerous projects completed by the parliamentarians and the administrative personnel. I invite you to read through this document, which will enable you to learn more about the workings of our institution, be it with regard to parliamentary work, activities developed for citizens, diplomacy, our heritage or the administration.

Among our activities are the publication of the survey on the *Knowledge and perception citizens have of the National Assembly and the Members*, the tabling of two draft parliamentary reforms, presented respectively by the President of the Assembly and by the Government House Leader, and the presentation of the *Strategic Plan of the Administration of the National Assembly, 2004-2009*, which will guide the actions of our institution over the next five years. These documents with converging objectives aim more particularly to provide continual improvement of the services to Members and to the population, to increase the efficiency of the work of parliamentarians and to optimize the organization and proceedings of the National Assembly.

Furthermore, four new Members made their entry into the Chamber of the National Assembly following the by-elections held on 20 September 2004. To facilitate their integration, the administration of the Assembly organized hospitality activities and training sessions for them.

The past year has also been very busy as regards parliamentary work. The National Assembly held 76 sittings, for a total of 365 hours, while the standing committees met on 396 occasions, for a total of 1199 hours. Exceptionally, in February 2005, the Assembly appointed the Select Committee on the choice of the future site for the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal. This is the third Select Committee to be created since the parliamentary reform of 1984.

I trust that reading this Activity Report will provide a means to better understand the operations of our institution, which plays a primary role within our society.

The Secretary General,

François Côté

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ITS MISSION

The National Assembly of Québec constitutes the foundation of the legislative power. It is composed of the Members elected by the population of Québec for each of the 125 electoral divisions. It is of the responsibility of the Members to debate and pass bills and the budget. They also have the role of supervising the actions of the Government, particularly during Oral Questions and Answers and during the consideration of the Government's estimates of expenditure, and of discussing matters of public interest.

The duration of the collective mandate of these Members, called a «legislature», is provided for in the Constitution and cannot exceed five years.

The National Assembly and the Lieutenant-Governor form the Parliament of Québec. The Parliament of Québec assumes all the powers conferred on the Legislature of Québec (An Act respecting the National Assembly).

THE THREE POWERS OF THE QUÉBEC STATE

LEGISLATIVE POWER	EXECUTIVE POWER	JUDICIAL POWER
Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws.	Determines policies to guide the actions of the State.	Interprets the laws passed by the legislative power.
Supervises the action of the executive power. Discusses matters of public interest	Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative power.	Decides whether a citizen or a group has acted in accordance with the law.
Parliament	**Government**	**Courts**

THE ROLE OF THE MEMBER

The primary activity of the Member is his participation in the legislative process. As a legislator, he examines, analyzes and votes on bills at the National Assembly. This role is carried out in several stages, both in the Assembly and in the standing committees. He takes part more particularly in public hearings addressing key societal issues. Furthermore, as the controller of the Government's activities, the Member disposes of several methods to scrutinize the actions of the Government.

He also acts as an intermediary between his constituents and the public administration. Ever attentive to the needs of his fellow citizens, he divides his time between the Parliament Building and his riding. In addition to these duties, the Member sometimes plays the role of «ambassador». Since the National Assembly belongs to a number of international parliamentary associations, Members have the opportunity to share with foreign parliamentarians their concerns and their experiences on economic, social, political and cultural issues.

THE MEMBERS OF THE 37TH LEGISLATURE

A by-election is held in an electoral division to fill a vacancy arising from the resignation or death of a Member or stemming from a judicial ruling. Where the seat of a Member becomes vacant, a Government order instituting the holding of a by-election must be addressed to the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec not later than six months after it becomes vacant.

The by-elections held on 20 September 2004

Following the resignation of four Members, three of whom resigned in 2004, by-elections were held on 20 September 2004 in the electoral divisions of Gouin, Nelligan, Laurier-Dorion and Vanier.

These by-elections were called in pursuance of two Government orders, the first issued on 16 August 2004 (Laurier-Dorion, Nelligan, Vanier) and the second on 18 August 2004 (Gouin).

On 28 September 2004, the Chief Electoral Officer transmitted to the Secretary General of the National Assembly a list of the candidates declared elected in the following electoral divisions:

Nicolas Girard
(PQ)
Gouin

Yolande James
(QLP)
Nelligan

Elsie Lefebvre
(PQ)
Laurier-Dorion

Sylvain Légaré
(ADQ)
Vanier

Resignations

Three Members resigned in 2004. They are:

Marc Bellemare
(QLP)
Vanier

First elected:
on 14 April 2003

Date of resignation:
on 28 April 2004

At time of resignation:
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

Christos Sirros
(QLP)
Laurier-Dorion

First elected:
on 13 April 1981

Date of resignation:
on 17 June 2004

At time of resignation:
1st Vice-President of
the National Assembly

André Boisclair
(PQ)
Gouin

First elected:
on 25 September 1989

Date of resignation:
on 17 August 2004

At time of resignation:
Official Opposition
House Leader

As at 31 March 2005, the Assembly was composed as follows:

	Number of seats
Québec Liberal Party	73
Parti Québécois	46
Action démocratique du Québec*	5
Independent Members	1

** Independent Members*

The election of the 1st Vice-President of the Assembly

The President is assisted by three vice-presidents elected by the Assembly to support him in his parliamentary and administrative duties.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders, the first two vice-presidents are elected among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the third, among those of the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition.

On 19 October 2004, on the proposal of the Premier, the Assembly unanimously elected the Member for Viau, Mr. William Cusano, as First Vice-President of the National Assembly, which office had been left vacant owing to the resignation of the Member for Laurier-Dorion, Mr. Christos Sirros, on 17 June 2004.

William Cusano
(QLP)
Viau
First Vice-President

Diane Leblanc
(QLP)
Beauce-Sud
Second Vice-President

François Gendron
(PQ)
Abitibi-Ouest
Third Vice-President

Who are our Members?

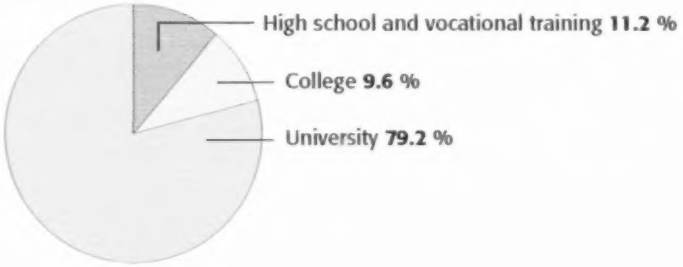
Who are our Members?

As at 31 March 2005, women, of whom there are 40, occupied 32 % of the seats in the National Assembly, representing the highest percentage in history. As a reflection of Québec's population, the Members of the National Assembly hail from various professional and academic backgrounds.

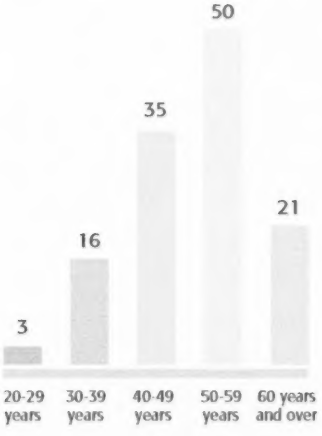
There are 16 former mayors among the current Members.

Principal professional occupations of Members in the course of their career:

- Professors ..... 23 Members
- Administrators ..... 23 Members
- Lawyers ..... 16 Members
- Public servants ..... 8 Members



DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS PER AGE GROUP



AMONG THE MOST PREVALENT UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINES ARE:	
Law	24
Political science	12
Administration	9
Teaching	9

The Members of the 37th Legislature have on average 7 years and 7 months of parliamentary experience. As at 31 March 2005, the average age of Members was 50 years and 11 months. The youngest Member was 25 years of age and the eldest, 69 years of age.

THE

OF TH
AS A

JEAN CHAREST
Premier
Sherbrooke

JACQUES P. DUPUIS
Government House Leader
Saint-Laurent

THOMAS J. MULCAIR
Deputy Government House Leader
Chomedey

MICHÈLE LAMQUIN-ÉTHIER
Deputy Government House Leader
Crémazie

NORMAN MACMILLAN
Chief Government Whip
Papineau

LUCIE CHARLEBOIS
Deputy Government Whip
Soulanges

NICOLE LOISELLE
Deputy Government Whip
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne

DAVID WHISSELL
Eastern Chair
Argenteuil

VINCENT AUCLAIR
Vimont

MICHEL AUDET
Laporte

CLAUDE BACHAND
Arthabaska

LISE BEAUCHAMP
Bourassa-Sauvé

CLAUDE BÉCHARD
Témiscamie-Témiscouata

LAWRENCE S. BERGMAN
D'Arcy McGee

DANIEL BERNARD
Rivière-Nicolet-Bécancour

RAYMOND BERNIER
Montmorency

KARL BLACKBURN
Roberval

YVAN BORDELEAU
Acadie

JULIE BOULET
Laviolette

BERNARD BRODEUR
Shefford

JACQUES CHAGNON
Westmount–Saint-Louis

NANCY CHAREST
Matane

ANDRÉ CHENAIL
Huntingdon

ROCH CHOLETTE
Hull

MAURICE CLERMONT
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

RUSSELL COPEMAN
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

PIERRE CORRIVEAU
Abitibi-Est

PHILIPPE COUILLARD
Mont-Royal

MICHELLE COURCHESNE
Fabre

MARGARET F. DELISLE
Jean-Talon

PIERRE DESCOTEAUX
Gaspé

MICHEL DESPRÉS
Iberville

JEAN DUBUC
La Prairie

JEAN-MARC FOURNIER
Châteauguay

ANDRÉ GABIAS
Trois-Rivières

MONIQUE GAGNON-TREMBLAY
Saint-François

FRANCINE GAUDET
Maskinongé

FRANÇOISE GAUTHIER
Jonquière

HENRI-FRANÇOIS GAUTRIN
Verdun

SAM HAMAD
Louis-Hébert

FRANCE HAMEL
La Peltrie

FATIMA HOUDA-PEPIN
La Pinière

YOLANDE JAMES
Bellechasse

MONIQUE JÉRÔME-FORGET
Marguerite-Bourgeoys

GEOFFREY KELLEY
Jacques-Cartier

RÉJEAN LAFRENIÈRE
Gatineau

CHARLOTTE L'ÉCUYER
Pontiac

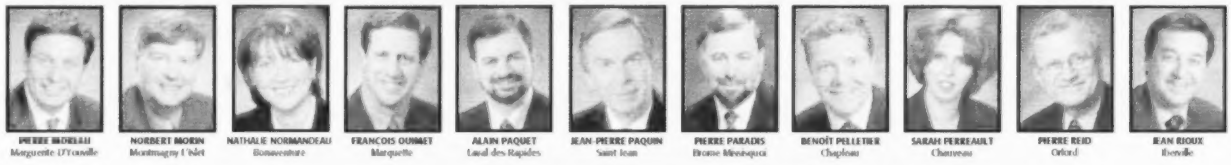
DIANE LEGAULT
Chambly

LAURENT LESSARD
Frontenac

YVON MARCOUX
Vaudreuil

PIERRE MARSAN
Robert-Baldwin

ÉRIC R. MERCIER
Charlesbourg



PIERRE MICHELI
Marguerite-D'Youville

NORBERT MORIN
Montmagny–L'Islet

NATHALIE NORMANDEAU
Bonaventure

FRANÇOIS OUIMET
Marquette

ALAIN PAQUET
Laval-des-Rapides

JEAN-PIERRE PAQUIN
Saint-Jean

PIERRE PARADIS
Brome-Missisquoi

BENOÎT PELLETIER
Chapleau

SARAH PERREAULT
Chauveau

PIERRE REID
Orford

JEAN ROUX
Berthier

YVES SÉGUIN
Outremont

JEAN-PIERRE SOUCY
Portneuf

CAROLE THÉBERGE
Lévis

LISE THÉRIAULT
Anjou

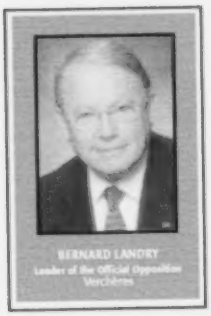
TONY TOMASSI
Lafontaine

YVON VALLIÈRES
Richmond

DOMINIQUE VIEN
Bellechasse

MEMBERS

37th LEGISLATURE
31 MARCH 2005



BERNARD LANDRY
Leader of the Official Opposition
Verchères

DIANE LEMIEUX
Opposition House Leader
Bourget

STÉPHANE BÉDARD
Deputy Opposition House Leader
Chicoutimi

MICHEL MORIN
Chief Opposition Whip
Nicolet-Yamaska

JACQUES CÔTÉ
Deputy Opposition Whip
Dubuc

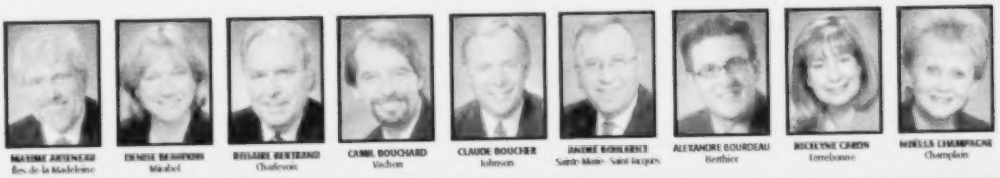
AGNÈS MALTAIS
Caucus Chair
Taschereau

MICHEL BISSONNET
President of the National Assembly
Jeanne-Mance–Viger

WILLIAM CUSANO
First Vice-President
Viau

DIANE LEBLANC
Second Vice-President
Bruce-Sud

FRANÇOIS GENDRON
Third Vice-President
Abitibi-Ouest



MAXIME ARSENEAU
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

DENISE BEAUDOIN
Mirabel

RICHARD BERTRAND
Charlevoix

CAMIL BOUCHARD
Vachon

CLAUDE BOUCHER
Johnson

ANDRÉ BOULERICE
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques

ALEXANDRE BOURDEAU
Berthier

RICHELINE CARON
Terrebonne

NOËLLA CHAMPAGNE
Champlain

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU
Bordeaux

SOLANGE CHAREST
Rimouski

CLAUDE COUSINEAU
Bertrand

SERGE DESLIÈRES
Rouyn-Noranda

LÉANDRE DION
Saint-Hyacinthe

RITA DIONNE-MARSOLAIS
Rimouski

DANIELLE DOYER
Matapédia

MARIE-ROSE DUFOUR
René-Lévesque

NICOLAS GIRARD
Gouin

LOUISE HAREL
Huchelaga-Maisonneuve

NORMAND JUTRAS
Drummond

ELSIE LEFEBVRE
Laviolette–Trois-Rivières

FRANÇOIS LEGAULT
Rousseau

RICHARD LEHOUX
Blainville

NICOLE LÉGER
Pointe-aux-Trembles

GUY LELIÈVRE
Gaspé

MICHEL LETOURNEAU
Ungava

PAULINE MAROIS
Vaudreuil

SYLVAIN PAGÉ
Labelle

LUCIE PIENEAU
Prévost

CLAUDE PINARD
Saint-Maurice

ÉGIDIUS RIOUARD
Duplessis

HÉLÈNE ROBERT
Deux-Montagnes

SYLVAIN SIMARD
Richelieu

JEAN-CLAUDE ST-ANDRÉ
L'Assomption

LUC THÉRIAULT
Masson

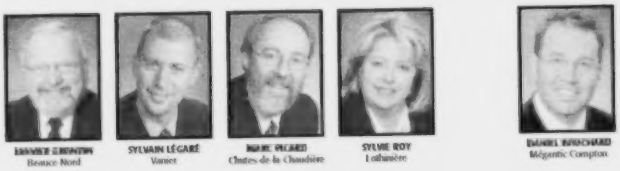
STÉPHAN TREMBLAY
Lac-Saint-Jean

DANIEL TURP
Mercier

JONATHAN VALDIS
Iberville

CÉCILE VERMETTE
Marie-Victorin

MARIO DUMONT
Rivière-du-Loup



DAVID GENDRON
Beauce-Nord

SYLVAIN LÉGARÉ
Vanier

MARC PICARD
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière

SYLVIE ROY
Lotbinière

DANIEL BINSCHARD
Mégantic-Compton

THE SEATING PLAN OF THE ASSEMBLY AS AT 31 MARCH 2005

Definitions

Parliamentary group forming the Government
The group of Members whose party won the majority of seats in a general election. Their leader becomes the Premier, and he chooses, generally among the Members of this group, those who shall become Ministers.

Parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition
The group of Members whose party won the second largest number of seats in a general election. The leader of this parliamentary group becomes the Leader of the Official Opposition.

Independent Member
A Member of Parliament who is not a member of a recognized political party under the Standing Orders of the National Assembly or who, during a term of office, leaves a group without joining another. An independent Member may join a parliamentary group at any time during a legislature.

Parliamentary duties

President
He is elected among the Members and his duties are threefold: to chair the sittings of the Assembly while ensuring that the Standing Orders are observed and that the rights and privileges of the National Assembly and of its Members are protected; to oversee the services of the Assembly; to represent the Assembly in Québec and abroad, particularly in its relations with other Parliaments.

Vice-presidents
There are three vice-presidents, the first two of which are elected among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the third, among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition. They assist the President in his duties and enjoy the same prerogatives and the same authority as the latter when they replace him in his parliamentary duties.

Leader
A Member who is responsible for the parliamentary activity of his party.

House leader
A Member who is responsible for establishing the parliamentary strategies of his group.

Deputy House leader
A Member who assists and replaces the House Leader in his duties.

Whip
A Member who is responsible for discipline within his group and who coordinates the activities of the Members in the Assembly, in committees, and within delegations.

Deputy Whip
A Member who assists and replaces the Whip in his duties.

The Mace
*Clerk
*Secretary General
Bissonnet
Jeanne-Mance–Viger
PRESIDENT
Leader of the Official Opposition
Opposition House Leader
Chief Opposition Whip
Other Members
Vice-President
Premier
Government House Leader
Chief Government Whip
Ministers
*Public Servants

The National Assembly and PARLIAMENTARY WORK

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE...

An important exercise in parliamentary reform began in June 2004 with the tabling of two documents containing proposals to help the Assembly make the necessary adjustments in keeping with the challenges it faces. These proposals were introduced by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, and by the Government House Leader and Member for Saint-Laurent, Mr. Jacques P. Dupuis.

The proposal made by the President of the National Assembly, presented in the form of annotated Standing Orders, revolves around four main themes:

- Bringing the citizens and the Assembly closer together;
- Promoting the autonomy and initiative of Members;
- Increasing the efficiency of their work;
- Observing the democratic equilibrium within the framework of parliamentary deliberations.

The proposal made by the Government House Leader also focusses on four objectives, namely:

- Increasing citizen participation;
- Valuing the role of Members;
- Modernizing the Assembly;
- Redefining the relation between the Executive and the Legislative powers.

BRIEF HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

Procedure at the Assembly is governed by statute, by its Standing Orders, by its Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings and by its orders. On 16 April 1985, the National Assembly adopted the current Standing Orders.

The Subcommittee on Parliamentary Reform

It met on four occasions to examine the reform proposals tabled in the Assembly. These sittings were held on 25 November 2004 and on 1, 3 and 16 March 2005.

SCHEDULE OF SITTINGS

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a work calendar that is divided into two periods: from the second Tuesday in March until 23 June at the latest, and from the third Tuesday in October until 21 December at the latest. The Standing Orders also provide for «intensive» periods of work, beginning on 25 May and on 25 November, during which the Members also sit on Friday and the sitting hours are extended.

The standing committee sittings may take place all year long. However, none of these sittings may be held when Routine Proceedings are underway in the National Assembly Chamber.

Schedule of Assembly sittings

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	*	*
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Friday		

** The Assembly sits on Monday on motion by the Government House Leader.*

Outside of the periods provided for in the Standing Orders, the Assembly, at the request of the Premier, may hold extraordinary sittings. This request is addressed to the President or, in his absence, to the Secretary General.

Extraordinary sitting on Monday, 21 March 2005

At the request of the Premier, Mr. Jean Charest, the National Assembly was summoned to meet as a matter of urgency in an extraordinary sitting on Monday, 21 March 2005. This sitting permitted the consideration and passage in committee of the whole of the appropriations necessary for the administration of the Government for a three-month period and the adoption of Bill 71, An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions applicable to forest management activities.

Assessment of work at the Assembly

During 2004-2005, 76 sittings were held in the Assembly and 396 in committee. The following table provides a breakdown thereof:

	ASSEMBLY		COMMITTEES	
	Sittings	Hours	Sittings	Hours
April	10	40 h 58	33	102 h 10
May	13	49 h 59	51	167 h 05
June	11	32 h 07	51	132 h 29
July	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	3	7 h 01
September	0	0	28	96 h 42
October	6	30 h 13	28	75 h 51
November	14	68 h 14	61	140 h 26
December	12	89 h 16	51	119 h 46
January	0	0	15	59 h 21
February	0	0	31	160 h 49
March	10	54 h 16	44	137 h 20

IN THE ASSEMBLY	**76 sittings 365 h 03**

IN COMMITTEES	**396 sittings 1199 h 01**

A sitting of the Assembly is divided into two periods: the Routine Proceedings and the Orders of the Day. The Routine Proceedings are composed of nine items of business set aside for information given by the Government to the Assembly, while the Orders of the Day are devoted mainly to debates on bills at either of the stages of their consideration.

Items of business under Routine Proceedings

1. Statements by Ministers

At this stage, a Minister may make a statement to the Assembly on any subject he deems to be relevant, such as the announcement of a governmental policy or the Government's reaction to a given event. In 2004-2005, four statements by Ministers were heard.

2. Introduction of bills

It is also during Routine Proceedings that a bill may be introduced. Members do not discuss the content of the bill at this point but simply allow the text thereof to be submitted for examination during the subsequent stages of the legislative process. Sixty-eight bills were introduced during the past fiscal year.

3. Tablings

The parliamentarians table various documents of public interest on a regular basis. In 2004-2005, 921 documents were tabled in the Assembly, primarily annual reports from ministries and public bodies, reports from committees and petitions.

TABLING OF A PETITION

The right of citizens to present a petition to the National Assembly is a fundamental right that is codified in the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. Therefore, every person or association of persons may address a petition to the Assembly, through a Member chosen by the petitioner, for the redress of a situation deemed unfair.

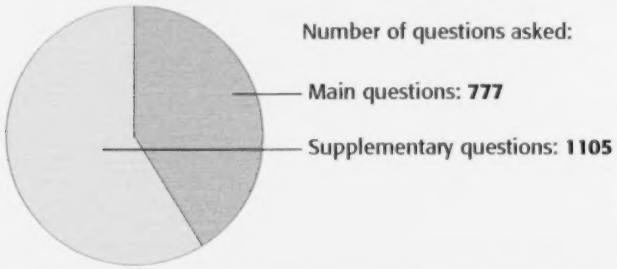
4. Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

At this stage, any Member may raise a breach of the privileges or immunities of the Assembly or give personal explanations on a matter concerning him as a Member of the Assembly. In 2004-2005, the Chair gave five rulings on such matters.

5. Oral Questions and Answers

This item of business is without a doubt the most familiar to citizens. During this 45-minute period, Members may question Ministers on matters of public interest, be they stemming from current events or urgent matters, within their competence or that of the Government.

Of the 57 hours devoted to Oral Questions and Answers:



DEBATES UPON ADJOURNMENT

Any Member who is of the opinion that a matter he raised during oral question period has not been sufficiently discussed may request a debate upon adjournment. He must give notice to the President of the matter he wishes to discuss no later than thirty minutes after the end of oral question period. In 2004-2005, 41 such debates were held, on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, at the time appointed for the rising of the Assembly.

Not more than three debates may be held upon adjournment on any sitting day. The Member who raised the matter and the Minister responding thereto may each speak for up to five minutes and the Member may thereafter speak for up to two minutes in reply.

6. Deferred Divisions

At the request of the Government House Leader, the President may defer a recorded division to a later moment during the same sitting or until the Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

GLOSSARY

Motion

Procedural act by which a Member places some matter before the Assembly for its decision. He may thus ask the Assembly to carry out an action, order that an action be carried out or express an opinion on a given subject.

7. Motions Without Notice

Routine Proceedings also enable Members to present motions without notice, thus bringing a matter to the attention of the Assembly despite a motion thereon not having first been placed on the *Order Paper and Notices*.

In 2004-2005, 177 motions without notice were carried, several of which unanimously:

- World No Tobacco Day
- The 40th anniversary of the Ministère de l'Éducation
- The 400th anniversary of the founding of Acadia

8. Notices of Proceedings in Committees

9. Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

These two last items under Routine Proceedings allow the Government House Leader and the President to provide the Members with information on the parliamentary proceedings.

Items of business under Orders of the Day

With very few exceptions, the motions debated during this period are placed on the *Order Paper and Notices*. Notwithstanding Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, it is generally the Government House Leader who indicates which item of business on the *Order Paper* will be discussed. However, he must observe the order in which these items are to be taken.

1. Business Having Precedence

These items of business, as the name indicates, have precedence over all other matters, owing to their importance or urgency. The Opening Speech of the Session, delivered by the Premier, ranks first among the items of business having precedence, and, within the framework of the ensuing debate thereon, the speeches by the Leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives. Among other business having precedence, the Budget Speech and want of confidence motions should also be mentioned.

2. Urgent Debates

Any Member may request the holding of an urgent debate. The President authorizes the holding of such a debate if he deems that the request concerns a specific and important matter involving the responsibility of the Assembly and which cannot be otherwise discussed.

On 30 November 2004, the request made by the Official Opposition to hold an urgent debate on «the mad cow disease crisis» was favourably considered by President Bissonnet.

3. Debates on Reports from Committees

The reports from committees containing recommendations are placed on the Order Paper immediately after they have been tabled in the Assembly and must be taken into consideration within 15 days following this tabling.

4. Other Business Standing on the *Order Paper and Notices*

During this period, the Assembly engages in the various stages of the consideration of a bill, including the passage in principle, the clause-by-clause consideration in committee of the whole and the passage of the bill.

Only a Minister may introduce a bill having a financial impact. However, barring this exception, any Member has the right to introduce a bill at the National Assembly, and he may thereupon entrust its drafting to the legal and legislative services of the Assembly.

During the past year, the Assembly passed 60 bills, more specifically:		
43	introduced by Ministers	70 % of which were adopted unanimously
17	private bills	all of which were adopted unanimously
On average, 79 days elapsed between the introduction of these bills and their passage. The French versions of these bills represent over 1485 pages of legislation.		

Le Répertoire législatif 2004 de l'Assemblée nationale, which constitutes a summary of the legislative work carried out in the past year, totals 172 pages. The document contains, among other information, a descriptive file for each public statute, a table of the amendments made to the public statutes, the list of public statutes per department or sector and an alphabetical index relating to the public statutes.

Each year, the National Assembly publishes an *Annual Statutes Compilation* in French (*Les lois du Québec*) and in English (*Statutes of Québec*). In addition to the text of each statute assented to, the compilation also contains the table of modifications made since 1977 to the *Revised Statutes of Québec*.

5. Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

The debates on Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition take place every Wednesday, excepting during the period of extended hours of meeting or when business having precedence is underway.

10 motions were placed on the Order Paper by the Members of the Official Opposition and 1 motion by the independent Members (ADQ). The motions concerned various subjects, including:

- The increase in Hydro-Québec tariffs
- The obligatory labelling of food containing GMOs
- The transformation of $103 million in bursaries into student loans
- The quality of life in Québec home-care centres

THE STANDING COMMITTEES

A standing committee is composed of a limited number of Members who are responsible for the examination of any matter within its competence. An important part of parliamentary work is not carried out in the Assembly itself, but in the committees, where Members exercise their duties as legislators and controllers of the Government's actions and the public administration. The Members in committee give detailed consideration to bills, closely examine the activities of the departments and governmental agencies, study the budgetary estimates of the Government, and may also choose, on their own initiative, to examine any other matter within their field of jurisdiction. It is also in committee that the population can be heard during public consultations on bills or on important societal issues.

Calendar of standing committee sittings

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov to 21 Dec
Monday	2 to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 to 6 p.m. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	9.30 a.m. to12.30 p.m. 2 to 6 p.m.	
Friday	9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	

There are eleven parliamentary committees, nine of which are sector-based. Six of the sector-based committees are chaired by Members from the group forming the Government and three by Members of the Official Opposition. The chairmanship of the Committee on Public Administration is set aside for a Member of the Official Opposition, and the President of the National Assembly chairs the Committee on the National Assembly.

The documentary studies service provides support to the parliamentarians, particularly with respect to the standing committee mandates. It produces studies and analyses and provides assistance in the drafting of consultation papers and reports within the framework of orders of initiative and accountability. This service prepared 95 analysis papers in 2004-2005.

GLOSSARY

Chairman

A Member of one of the parliamentary groups, elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term, he organizes and chairs the proceedings of his committee. The chairman of the committee takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

Vice-chairman

A Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chairman, elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term, he assists the chairman in his duties and replaces him when necessary.

Temporary chairman

A Member appointed by the President of the Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chairman or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. The Committee on the National Assembly approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity. The list of temporary chairmen was as follows as at 31 March 2005:

QLP
Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie)
Lucie Charlebois (Soulanges)
Maurice Clermont (Mille-Îles)
Jean Dubuc (La Prairie)
France Hamel (La Peltrie)
Yolande James (Nelligan)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)
Jean-Pierre Paquin (Saint-Jean)
Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)

PQ
Claude Boucher (Johnson)
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Serge Deslières (Beauharnois)
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes)
Cécile Vermette (Marie-Victorin)

Members of the standing committees

Before taking a look at the work completed in 2004-2005, the following outlines the terms of reference and the members of each committee as at 31 March 2005:

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Standing Orders of the National Assembly and the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings; coordination of the proceedings of the other committees

Ex-officio members:

The President of the Assembly
The Vice-Presidents
The House leaders and whips of the parliamentary groups
The committee chairmen

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Accountability and examination of financial commitments

Members:

The chairman — Rita Dionne-Marsolais (Rosemont) PQ
The vice-chairman — Sarah Perreault (Chauveau) QLP

QLP
Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie)
France Hamel (La Peltrie)
Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)
Jean-Pierre Paquin (Saint-Jean)
Jean Rioux (Iberville)

PQ
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Agnès Maltais (Taschereau)
Cécile Vermette (Marie-Victorin)

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Executive Council, justice, public security, intergovernmental relations, the Constitution

Members:

The chairman — Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) PQ
The vice-chairman — Pierre Descoteaux (Groulx) QLP

QLP
Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)
Karl Blackburn (Roberval)
Nancy Charest (Matane)
Roch Cholette (Hull)
André Gabias (Trois-Rivières)
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)

PQ
Jacques Côté (Dubuc)
Daniel Turp (Mercier)
Jonathan Valois (Joliette)

ADQ
Mario Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Finance, the budget, the public accounts, the public administration, the public service, and supply and services

Members:

The chairman — Sam Hamad (Louis-Hébert) QLP
The vice-chairman — Rosaire Bertrand (Charlevoix) PQ

QLP
Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)
Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis)
Nancy Charest (Matane)
André Gabias (Trois-Rivières)
Pierre Moreau (Marguerite-D'Youville)
Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)

PQ
Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel)
François Legault (Rousseau)
Guy Lelièvre (Gaspé)

ADQ
Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière)

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Family, health, social and community services, status of women, income security

Members:

The chairman — Russell Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) QLP
The vice-chairman — Camil Bouchard (Vachon) PQ

QLP
Claude Bachand (Arthabaska)
Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
Francine Gaudet (Maskinongé)
Yolande James (Nelligan)
Diane Legault (Chambly)
Jean-Pierre Paquin (Saint-Jean)

PQ
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Nicolas Girard (Gouin)
Elsie Lefebvre (Laurier-Dorion)

ADQ
Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Industry, trade, tourism, labour, science and technology, energy and resources, manpower

Members:

The chairman — Normand Jutras (Drummond) PQ
The vice-chairman — Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) QLP

QLP
Karl Blackburn (Roberval)
Pierre Descoteaux (Groulx)
France Hamel (La Peltrie)
Yolande James (Nelligan)
Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet)
Jean Rioux (Iberville)

PQ
Claude Boucher (Johnson)
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque)

ADQ
Sylvain Légaré (Vanier)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Agriculture, fisheries, food

Members:

The chairman — Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) QLP
The vice-chairman — Jean-Pierre Charbonneau (Borduas) PQ

QLP
Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
André Chenail (Huntingdon)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)
Jean-Pierre Soucy (Portneuf)
Dominique Vien (Bellechasse)

PQ
Léandre Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Michel Morin (Nicolet-Yamaska)
Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes)

ADQ
Janvier Grondin (Beauce-Nord)

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Local communities, municipal planning, housing, recreation

Members:

The chairman — François Ouimet (Marquette) QLP
The vice-chairman — Richard Legendre (Blainville) PQ

QLP
Vincent Auclair (Vimont)
Maurice Clermont (Mille-Îles)
Jean Dubuc (La Prairie)
Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière)
Tony Tomassi (LaFontaine)

PQ
Serge Deslières (Beauharnois)
Agnès Maltais (Taschereau)
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Education, vocational training, consumer protection

Members:

The chairman — Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis) QLP
The vice-chairman — Maxime Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) PQ

QLP
Vincent Auclair (Vimont)
Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie)
Francine Gaudet (Maskinongé)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)
Sarah Perreault (Chauveau)

PQ
Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)
Claude Cousineau (Bertrand)
Pauline Marois (Taillon)

Parliamentary control activities constitute half of the work carried out in the standing committees, as the following table indicates:

Parliamentary control		
Government estimates of expenditure	198 h 59	17 %
Interpellations	16 h 08	1 %
Other orders of the Assembly	239 h 43	20 %
Delegated legislation	1 h 16	0 %
Surveillance of agencies	18 h 17	2 %
Examination of financial commitments	11 h 47	1 %
Accountability	43 h 57	4 %
Other orders under the Standing Orders	58 h 41	5 %
Orders of initiative	13 h 46	1 %
Subtotal	602 h 34	50 %

Legislative process		
Consideration of public bills	535 h 17	45 %
Consideration of private bills	10 h 26	1 %
Subtotal	545 h 43	46 %

General organization and election of the chairmen and vice-chairmen		
Subtotal	40 h 57	3 %

Discussion on the parliamentary reform		
Subtotal	9 h 47	0,8 %

TOTAL	1199 h 01	100 %

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

Culture, communications, cultural communities, immigration, relations with the citizens

Members:

The chairman	Bernard Brodeur (Shefford) QLP
The vice-chairman	André Boulerice (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) PQ

QLP	PQ
Diane Legault (Chambly)	Jocelyne Caron (Terrebonne)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)	Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles)
Pierre Moreau (Marguerite-D'Youville)	Lucie Papineau (Prévost)
Yves Séguin (Outremont)	
Dominique Vien (Bellechasse)	

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Transportation, public works, the environment, wildlife

Members:

The chairman	Louise Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) PQ
The vice-chairman	Tony Tomassi (LaFontaine) QLP

QLP	PQ
Jean Dubuc (La Prairie)	Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice)
Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau)	Luc Thériault (Masson)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)	Stéphan Tremblay (Lac-Saint-Jean)
Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet)	
Jean-Pierre Soucy (Portneuf)	

SELECT COMMITTEE

Exceptionally, the Assembly may appoint a Select Committee, which was the case in February 2005 in relation to the choice of the future site for the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)[1]. This is the third Select Committee to be created since the parliamentary reform of 1984.

Were members:

The chairman	Diane Legault (Chambly) QLP
The vice-chairman	Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) PQ

QLP	PQ
Karl Blackburn (Roberval)	Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)
Philippe Couillard (Mont-Royal)	Nicolas Girard (Gouin)
Francine Gaudet (Maskinongé)	Louise Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)
Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun)	Pauline Marois (Taillon)
Yolande James (Nelligan)	Daniel Turp (Mercier)
Michèle Lamquin-Éthier (Crémazie)	
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)	
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)	**ADQ**
Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)	Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

[1] Under Standing Order 178, every select committee having once laid its report upon the *Table of the Assembly* shall cease to exist. The Select Committee on the *Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal* (CHUM) was appointed on 23 February 2005 and tabled its report on 8 March 2005.

FACILITATING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

Several technological initiatives were undertaken during the past year for the purpose of promoting greater citizen participation in parliamentary work. For the first time, the committees had recourse to videoconferencing to facilitate consultations with citizens living in remote regions. The **Committee on Social Affairs** thus heard via videoconferencing the representatives of the Nunavik Regional Health and Social Services Board, and the **Committee on Labour and the Economy** allowed an organization from the Magdalen Islands, Attention Fragiles, to present its brief in a videoconference session held within the framework of a general consultation on energy security.

For the first time, the committees had recourse to videoconferencing to facilitate consultations with citizens living in remote regions.

Furthermore, an on-line consultation was carried out by the **Committee on Social Affairs** within the framework of a general consultation on equality between men and women (24 opinions were submitted in addition to the 105 briefs). Two pilot projects enabling access to the electronic version of documents produced within the framework of committee proceedings (briefs, documents tabled, minutes) yielded conclusive results and this practice was extended to all committees beginning in January 2005. Finally, access for the handicapped to the Assembly was greatly facilitated by the **Committee on Social Affairs** during the general consultation on Bill 56, An Act to amend the Act to secure the handicapped in the exercise of their rights and other legislative provisions.

These initiatives are in addition to the existing measures that include Webcasting of all proceedings, quick access on the Internet site to the transcription of the debates and the existence of a Web page for each of the committees where all information relating to the proceedings is available.

MANDATES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The sector-based parliamentary committees may carry out three types of mandates: orders of reference, orders of initiative, and statutory orders. The complete list of mandates carried out by the standing committees in 2004-2005 can be found in appendix. It is interesting to note that several of these mandates are preceded by preparatory meetings and followed by deliberative meetings for the purpose of making an assessment of the proceedings and of drafting a final report that sometimes contains observations and recommendations addressed to the Government. The standing committees held 85 deliberative meetings during the year. The documents produced by the standing committees, such as consultation papers, reports and communiqués, may be consulted on the Internet site of the National Assembly; they are also available on CD-ROM, as are all briefs tabled within the framework of each of the public consultations.

GLOSSARY

Orders of initiative

On their own initiative, the committee members examine draft regulations and regulations, the orientation, activities and management of public agencies and any other matter of public interest.

1. Orders of initiative

In the course of 2004-2005, the committee members took the initiative to more closely examine the issues affecting various sectors of community life. The following are a few examples thereof.

Within the framework of its mandate on food safety in Québec, the **Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food** tabled its final report in June 2004. This report contains 26 recommendations carried unanimously by the committee members. They concern more particularly obligatory labelling of genetically engineered food, the adoption of a global and integrated policy on food safety, and the implementation of an education and awareness programme that includes components for both schools and for families and the general public.

The **Committee on Institutions** continued its mandate on the implementation and future prospects of the Northern Québec Development Policy and of the agreements signed with the Cree and Inuit Nations (Paix-des-Braves and Sanarratik). During the past year, the committee members met with the Grand Chief of the Crees, Mr. Ted Moses, as well as with the representatives of the Naskapi Nation. The Committee had previously carried out a mission in Northern Québec to meet with members of the Cree, Inuit and Jamesian communities.

In preparation for the general consultation that will take place within the framework of the order of initiative on Québec's religious heritage issue, the **Committee on Culture** held a deliberative meeting during which it heard Mr. Luc Noppen, Canada Research Chair on Urban Heritage at the Université du Québec à Montréal. The Committee intends to produce a consultation paper on which a general consultation and an on-line consultation will be held. In March 2005, the Committee also held a deliberative meeting to hear the Minister of Culture and Communications and experts on the issues surrounding the diversity of cultural expressions.

Certain standing committees also carried out orders of surveillance of agencies in order to examine the orientation, activities and management of public agencies that fall within their terms of reference. The chief officers of the following agencies were heard in 2004-2005: Institut national de la santé publique du Québec, Corporation d'hébergement du Québec, Commission municipale du Québec, Société d'habitation du Québec, Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, Agence métropolitaine de transport. The standing committees also carried out orders of surveillance concerning the following agencies: Conseil des relations interculturelles, Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial du Québec, Investissement Québec, La Financière agricole du Québec. Finally, the Committee on Public Finance tabled a report containing three recommendations after having heard the chief officers of the Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances (CARRA).

2. Orders of reference

Clause-by-clause consideration of bills and of a draft regulation

The standing committees gave consideration to over fifty bills of which a complete list can be found in appendix. Included therein are Government bills, one private Member's public bill, seventeen private bills, and close to a dozen bills whose consideration had not been completed as at 31 March.

Furthermore, the **Committee on Labour and the Economy** examined the draft regulation entitled «Regulation on pay equity in enterprises where there are no predominantly male job classes», pursuant to section 114 of the Pay Equity Act, and to follow up on an order of the Assembly. This is the sixth time since the reform of 1984 that a standing committee examines a draft regulation.

General and special consultations

In 2004-2005, no less than 595 groups and individuals came before the committees to give their opinion on the various matters on which consultations were held, and 692 briefs were submitted to the committees (the annual average is 511 briefs). These consultations generally take place at the beginning of the decision-making process and enable the Government to properly assess the issues arising from a matter under consideration. The following is an overview of the main consultations held in 2004-2005.

The **Committee on Social Affairs** was mandated to hold five general consultations on the following subjects:

- the document entitled «*For a New Social Contract of Equality between Women and Men*» (105 briefs submitted, 24 opinions submitted via the on-line consultation and 48 individuals and groups heard as at 31 March 2005);
- Bill 83, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions (91 briefs submitted and 56 individuals and groups heard as at 31 March 2005);
- Bill 57, Individual and Family Assistance Act (76 briefs submitted and 62 individuals and groups heard);
- Bill 56, An Act to amend the Act to secure the handicapped in the exercise of their rights and other legislative provisions (38 briefs submitted and 33 individuals and groups heard);
- the document entitled «*Pharmaceutical Policy*» (the Committee received 80 briefs, with the hearings beginning in April 2005).

In June 2004, the **Committee on Education** tabled a unanimous report containing 30 recommendations following the general consultation held during the winter 2004, at the request of the Assembly, on the quality, accessibility and financing of universities. On this occasion, 92 briefs were submitted and

GLOSSARY

Orders of reference

At the request of the Assembly, the committees examine bills, the estimates of expenditure, and any other matter that may be referred to them.

General consultation

A general consultation is open to the population at large. Prior to its holding, a public notice must be published in selected newspapers, in the Québec Official Gazette and on the Internet site of the Assembly inviting any individuals and organizations interested in the matter under consideration to submit a brief to the committee. Public hearings are then held by the committee in order to discuss the submissions received.

Special consultations

Special consultations are limited to individuals and organizations chosen by the Committee or by the Assembly owing to their knowledge or expertise regarding the matter under consideration.

87 groups were heard. It was the first time that a committee presented a content report such as this one within the framework of an order of the Assembly. The Committee also held special consultations during the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 73, An Act to amend the Education Act and the Act respecting private education (seven briefs submitted and seven individuals and groups heard).

After having heard six experts in December 2004, the **Committee on Labour and the Economy** undertook in January 2005 an extensive general consultation on the document entitled «The Energy Sector in Québec - Context, Issues and Questions». The Committee had received 163 briefs and heard 122 individuals and groups as at 31 March 2005.

The **Committee on Public Finance** held a general consultation on Bill 61, An Act respecting the Agence des partenariats public-privé du Québec (the Committee received 51 briefs and heard 40 individuals and groups); the Committee also held special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 195, An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act (32 briefs received and 27 individuals and groups heard).

Finally, the **Committee on Planning and the Public Domain** held special consultations on Bill 62, Municipal Powers Act (14 briefs received and 10 individuals and groups heard) and on Bill 54, An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs (8 briefs received and 10 individuals and groups heard).

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

For a three-week period, at the end of April and the beginning of May, the committees considered the estimates of expenditure that the Government placed before the Assembly for its authorization, as stipulated in Standing Order 282. Upon the conclusion of their mandate, the committees had devoted over 198 hours to the examination and adoption of the estimates of expenditure granted to the ministries and agencies, totalling over 54 billion dollars.

3. Statutory orders and orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

GLOSSARY

Statutory orders and orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Statutory orders stem from an act or regulation arising therefrom. Furthermore, certain committee orders originate from provisions in the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

After having heard some forty groups during a general consultation on the document entitled «*Reforming Access to Information: Choosing Transparency*», the **Committee on Culture** tabled in May 2004 a final report containing 24 recommendations. This report recommends more particularly that the Government adopt a policy on the automatic release of information (the request for information made to the Access to information authorities would become the exception).

The **Committee on Planning and the Public Domain** heard the chairman of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec in relation to this agency's financial statements, its activity report and its development plan, in pursuance of section 27 of its incorporating Act. For its part, the **Committee on Institutions** met the Public Protector, Mrs. Pauline Champoux-Lesage, concerning her annual report, in pursuance of Standing Order 294.1. In compliance with certain provisions of the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level, the Committee on Education heard the head officers of thirteen universities on the documents that each university must produce. Finally, the **Committee on Transportation and the Environment** heard the representatives of the Agence métropolitaine de transport in relation to its 2002 and 2003 annual reports, as provided for in the Act (the Committee also chose to question the representatives of the agency on its orientation, activities and management within the framework of an order of surveillance).

INTERPELLATIONS

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, every Member sitting in opposition may interpellate a minister on a matter of general interest for which he is officially responsible. The interpellation is held at a meeting of the appropriate standing committee, on Friday morning, from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock noon. One interpellation may be held each week during the periods in which the Assembly ordinarily meets (excepting during intensive session, when none may be held).

The Government's ministers were interpellated in committee on the following matters:

- the pharmaceutical policy and the relations between doctors and pharmacists;
- the recent opinion transmitted by the Conseil de la famille et de l'enfance entitled «*Vieillissement et santé fragile: un choc pour la famille?*»;
- the abandonment of Québec's National Capital by the Liberal Government;
- the political direction of the Papiers Gaspésia project;
- the extension of opening hours of businesses;
- the Government's educational policies;
- the reengineering of the Québec State;
- the implementation of the National Water Policy.

Accountability

During the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the **Committee on Public Administration** tabled in the National Assembly three reports containing recommendations. The first two are the 12th and 13th reports on the

GLOSSARY

Accountability

The *Committee on Public Administration* is required to hear public administrators on their management. The Committee carries out this mandate by inviting the deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies to publicly express their views following the observations contained in the Auditor General's report stemming from the Auditor's work on resources optimization. This report is tabled in the National Assembly in December and in June of each year.

accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies, and they contain several recommendations adopted unanimously by the Committee members. These reports dealt with the following subjects:

- the administration of the Centre de conservation du Québec;
- mental health services;
- Government grants to non-profit organizations;
- the monitoring and control of water;
- assistance to students with learning problems;
- the management of the Québec Sales Tax and of the Goods and Services Tax;
- the management of the subway network extension project on the territory of the City of Laval;
- computer security management;
- home care services and residential services for persons in need of assistance.

The third report stems from the meeting of the Committee with the Auditor General on his 2003-2004 annual management report and contains three recommendations. These recommendations concern the modification of accounting practices in the health and social services network, the Auditor General's financial resources and the imperviousness of his practices.

Financial commitments

GLOSSARY

Financial commitments

Pursuant to the Standing Orders, the **Committee on Public Administration** must examine all financial commitments equal to or exceeding $25,000 that the Conseil du trésor, the Conseil exécutif, or any ministry has authorized.

The purpose of this mandate is to ensure the continuous parliamentary supervision of the use of appropriations allocated to the ministries and agencies by the National Assembly. By scrutinizing the more significant expenses, the Committee ensures itself of their advisability, of the observance of the Government rules and standards that govern the granting of contracts and subsidies, and of the equitable allocation of public funds.

Owing to the considerable work task involved in the examination of approximately 20,000 financial commitments per year, the Committee decided, in 2004, to modernize its methods and work tools by examining in deliberative meeting the financial commitments submitted by the ministries, and then transmitting questions in writing to the ministries concerned rather than by systematically hearing the ministers on their previous months' commitments. Hearing a minister has not been excluded from the examination process, but the Committee has recourse to this method only if the information provided requires further explanations. Hence, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was heard by the Committee in March 2005.

Thanks to this new procedure, some 11,000 financial commitments were examined during five deliberative meetings set aside for this exercise.

The National Assembly and THE CITIZENS

AN ASSEMBLY THAT RESPONDS TO THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION

Bringing citizens and their elected officials closer together is a constant concern of the parliamentary institutions. Since the late 1970s, the National Assembly has equipped itself with a vast array of communications methods, which today make it one of the most pioneering assemblies in Canada in this field. It disposes of an educational activities programme and of a series of publications and activities earmarked for the general public, such as exhibitions and open-house days in addition to an Internet site that annually receives approximately 1.8 million visitors. Over 1.7 million persons have access to the television broadcasting of debates and tens of thousands visit the Parliament Building each year.

However, in this age of continuous news coverage, the immediacy of information and new technologies, it appears that the Assembly must not only pursue but substantially intensify its efforts. In June 2004, the President of the National Assembly presented the results of a survey indicating that our parliamentary institution remains insufficiently known, particularly among young people, and that the mission of the Assembly must be explained more clearly to the population.

The survey results are available on the Internet site of the National Assembly by clicking on the heading *Nouvelles de l'Assemblée*.

In June 2004, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, accompanied by the Chief Government Whip and the Chief Opposition Whip, Messrs. Yvon Vallières and Michel Morin, revealed the results of a survey commissioned by the National Assembly on the knowledge and perception citizens have of the National Assembly and the Members.

THE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Few are the parliaments in the world that offer educational activities as rewarding for the population as those of the National Assembly of Québec. To stimulate the interest of people of all ages in the exercise of democracy and to provide the tools that will contribute to making them active and well-informed citizens, the National Assembly has developed various activities and publications to educate on democracy.

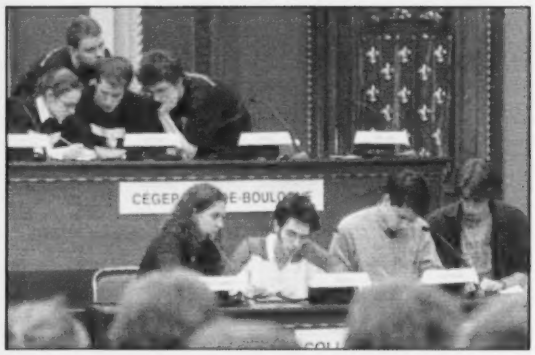
The tour of the schools

In order to further instruct students on the role of the National Assembly, its history and its achievements, during winter 2005, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, conducted a tour of 14 high schools, during which he met with over 4000 students from six regions of Québec, namely the Outaouais, Laurentides, Lanaudière, Chaudières-Appalaches, Gaspésie and Bas-Saint-Laurent regions. This tour, whose theme was *The Challenge of Democracy*, falls within the framework of the educational activities programme established by the Assembly. Its aim is to heighten the awareness of young people on the importance of taking part in the democratic process and to present the Assembly as the forum for debates and discussions on the issues affecting their daily lives.

In winter 2005, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, conducted a tour of 14 high schools, during which he met with over 4000 students from six regions of Québec.

The tournament and the parliamentary simulations

The parliamentary simulations allow the participants to understand the operation of the Assembly, its rules, advantages and limitations. Thanks to this role playing, they draft and discuss bills while learning the art of compromise, consensus and the respect of others.



Young Democrats' Tournament, from 16 to 18 April 2004

YOUNG DEMOCRATS' TOURNAMENT FROM 16 TO 18 APRIL 2004

Quiz game on democracy from Ancient Greece to this day

Clientele :	Secondary 4 and 5 and college
Participation :	300 students

PUPILS' PARLIAMENT ON 14 MAY 2004

Clientele :	6th grade elementary
Participation :	118 pupil-Members
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act obliging school boards to introduce first-aid courses for 3rd cycle elementary students. An Act obliging 3rd cycle elementary students to provide a sixty-minute period of tutoring to students experiencing problems.

SENIORS' PARLIAMENT FROM 13 TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2004

Clientele :	Retirees and pre-retirees
Participation :	125 seniors
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act concerning the implementation of a policy on aging well. An Act respecting home care services.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT FROM 26 TO 30 DECEMBER 2004

Clientele :	college and university
Participation :	104 students, four of whom were from the French Community of Belgium, three from Romania and one from British Columbia.
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act respecting assisted euthanasia. An Act respecting the integration of immigrants in the regions.

STUDENT PARLIAMENT FROM 3 TO 7 JUANARY 2005

Clientele :	college and university
Participation :	133 students
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec. An Act respecting private security.

Pupils' Parliament, on 14 May 2004

STUDENT FORUM FROM 9 TO 13 JANUARY 2005	
Clientele :	College
Participation :	130 students hailing from 25 colleges
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act respecting the sustainable forestry development. An Act respecting the improvement of the financial conditions of students.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT FROM 16 TO 18 FEBRUARY 2005	
Clientele :	Secondary 3 and 4
Participation :	134 students hailing from 29 high schools
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act concerning certain measures to inform, raise awareness and involve youth in politics. An Act introducing an obligatory on-the-job training session.

Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation

Since its creation on 21 June 1978, the mission of this Foundation has been to promote, among the general public and young people in particular, better knowledge of our political and parliamentary institutions through parliamentary simulations and internships.

It has contributed over one million dollars in scholarships for the realization of parliamentary internships in addition to promoting the apprenticeship of our political and parliamentary institutions by young Québec university students. Close to one hundred young people have benefited from these parliamentary internships and have been able to profit from the experience in their career development aspirations.

LEADERS DAY

At the invitation of the President of the National Assembly of Québec and Chairman of the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, Québec society decision-makers came to the Parliament Building in Québec City on 10 November 2004 to take part in an activity called *Les chefs de file au Parlement* (leaders at the Parliament). The Vice-President of the National Assembly and Vice-Chairman of the Foundation, Mrs. Diane Leblanc, the Premier of Québec, Mr. Jean Charest, the Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Bernard Landry, and the Member for Rivière-du-Loup, Mr. Mario Dumont, each took the floor on this occasion. The purpose of this activity, which brought together parliamentarians and leaders, was to allow Québec's decision-makers to learn more about the Foundation and to lay the groundwork of a partnership that would potentially increase the promotion of our democratic institutions in Québec's regions and communities.

LES CHEFS DE FILE
AU PARLEMENT

Parliamentary internships, a unique experience

Each year, for a 10-month period, the Foundation interns enjoy a hands-on experience of the numerous aspects of Québec parliamentary life. They become more familiar with the operation of the National Assembly and of the institutions that are accountable thereto, namely the Auditor General, the Public Protector, the Chief Electoral Officer and the Lobbyists Commissioner. Subsequently, each one is paired with a Member of the Government and then with a Member sitting in opposition. The interns also take part in a mission abroad and are required to draft a dissertation.

The following are the subjects of the dissertations submitted by the four interns in June 2004:

- *Une constitution formelle pour le Québec: mais qu'attendons-nous ?*
  (Pierre-Marc Daigneault)
- *L'Assemblée nationale du Québec et l'immigration, 1968-1981: reflets de l'évolution du Québec et de ses préoccupations.*
  (Jérôme Laflamme)
- *L'arrêt Libman: symptôme du syndrome «suprême».*
  (Frédéric Legendre)
- *La nouvelle gestion publique au Québec et le repositionnement de l'État providence dans le contexte de la réforme néo libérale: analyse du discours politique.*
  (François Rivet)

Mr. Ghislain Otis, Professor of Law at Laval University, delivered a speech entitled «*L'évolution constitutionnelle du Québec et des peuples autochtones : le défi de l'interdépendance*» during the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Conference held on 3 November 2004 in the Legislative Council Chamber of the National Assembly.

The ABCs of parliamentary procedure at Laval University

The National Assembly of Québec prepared a course on law and parliamentary procedure for the 2005 winter session at Laval University. This course enables law students to become familiar with the rules and principles that concern the organization and proceedings of the Assembly. Parliamentary law concepts are put into perspective in relation to other constitutional concepts, such as charters of rights and freedoms. The main rules for parliamentary debates are presented and all stages of public and private bills through to their assent by the Lieutenant-Governor are explained. The course also addresses notions related to the budgetary process and parliamentary control mechanisms.

AN ASSEMBLY THAT IS OPEN TO THE CITIZENS

In the company of guides, the citizens are invited to visit the Parliament Building, which was designed by architect Eugène-Étienne Taché and built between 1877 and 1886 on what has become the first national historic site of Québec. During the tour, guides explain the history and operations of the National Assembly of Québec. At the same time, visitors have the opportunity to discover and admire the special architectural features of the building and the richness of the art displayed therein. Tours are given in French and English and, upon reservation, in Spanish, Italian and sign language.

In the company of guides, the citizens are invited to visit the Parliament Building, which was designed by architect Eugène-Étienne Taché and built between 1877 and 1886 on what has become the first national historic site of Québec.

A total of 80,693 persons visited the Parliament Building in 2004-2005

Language	Number	Place of origin	Number	
French	57 637	Québec	51 319	64 %
English	21 999	Other provinces	7 775	10 %
Spanish	893	United States	8 601	10 %
Italian	164	Other countries	12 998	16 %
QLS (Québec sign language)	34			

Several visitors take the opportunity to attend the sittings of the Assembly and of the standing committees. One hundred and forty seats are available in the galleries of the National Assembly Chamber and seats are reserved for the public in each of the standing committee rooms. In 2004-2005, 15,571 persons thus attended the proceedings in the Chamber of the National Assembly, and 7384 in the standing committee rooms.

Young people are given special attention. In collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec (national capital commission), the National Assembly offers several visit programmes for elementary and high school students, some of which are specifically developed for immigrant students and contribute to their French language learning. These activities not only include a visit of the Parliament Building but also a tour of the Premiers' Promenade and of the Observatory of the Capital.

During the past year, 33,729 elementary and high school students enjoyed a guided tour.

Commission de la capitale nationale		Student groups		Total of students	
Elementary	8 350	Elementary	8 806	Elementary	17 156
High School	4 373	High School	7 636	High School	12 009
Immigrants (adults)	1 976			Immigrants (adults)	1 976
Immigrants (children)	622			Immigrants (children)	622
		College	1 276	College	1 276
		University	690	University	690
Total	15 321	Total	18 408	Total	33 729

In 2004-2005, the National Assembly hosted 221 official visits, protocol ceremonies and private activities that brought together 11,506 persons.

On 19 October 2004, the National Assembly marked the entry into force of the Royal Proclamation designating 28 July of every year as a Day of Commemoration of the Acadian Deportation. The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, is accompanied by the outgoing President of the Société nationale de l'Acadie, Mr. Eudide Chiasson.

DAY OF COMMEMORATION OF THE ACADIAN DEPORTATION

On 19 October 2004, the National Assembly marked, in an official ceremony in the Chamber of the National Assembly, the entry into force of the Royal Proclamation designating 28 July of every year as a *Day of Commemoration of the Acadian Deportation*.

This Proclamation, which was read on this occasion by the Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, the Honourable Lise Thibault, recognizes the wrongs caused to the Acadians during the deportation from 1755 to 1763, which event led to tragic consequences for several thousands of them.

The Premier of Québec, Mr. Jean Charest, the Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Bernard Landry, and the Member for Rivière-du-Loup, Mr. Mario Dumont, each took the floor to bear witness to the friendship and solidarity between Quebecers and Acadians. A motion was then carried unanimously by the Members of the National Assembly.

A delegation from New Brunswick, including the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Bev Harrison, also attended this ceremony. Furthermore, the first session of the New Brunswick-Québec Parliamentary Association was held for the first time in Québec City from 17 to 20 October 2004.

The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, invited representatives of various cultural communities of Québec in 2004-2005. The Haitian community visited the Parliament Building on 10 March 2005.

The welcoming of cultural communities

Ever-mindful of promoting the work of Members and of reinforcing relations between the parliamentary institutions and the citizens that make up Québec society, irrespective of their origin, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, invited representatives of various cultural communities of Québec to visit the Parliament Building in 2004-2005.

The following groups were welcomed at the Assembly:

- Moroccan community (7 April 2004)
- Sikh community (5 May 2004)
- Jewish community (18 May 2004)
- Pakistani community (8 December 2004)
- Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan communities (15 December 2004)
- Haitian community (10 March 2005)
- Russian-speaking community (22 March 2005)

A FORUM FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Political Book Day

On 13 April 2004, the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly and Member for Beauce-Sud, Mrs. Diane Leblanc, distributed the awards within the framework of the second edition of *Political Book Day in Québec*, during a ceremony that was held at the Library of the National Assembly. The award winners were announced at the conclusion of a day of activities highlighting this literary genre.

Jean-Claude Picard, author, journalist and associate professor at the Department of Information and Communications of Laval University, was awarded the *Prix de la Présidence de l'Assemblée nationale*, in the amount of $5000, for his biography entitled *Camille Laurin : l'homme debout*. This award is given to mark the quality, originality and interest of a work submitted by a Québec author and concerning Québec politics.

Caroline Patsias was awarded the *Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles Bonenfant*, in the amount of $3000, for her doctorate dissertation entitled *Vivre ensemble et communauté politique : entre ordres domestique et civique*. Mrs. Patsias also obtained the *Prix Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec/Ministère des Affaires étrangères de France*. **Jean-René Thuot** for his part won the second *prize of the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation* in the amount of $2000 for his brief entitled *Élites locales, institutions et fonctions publiques dans la paroisse Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan, de 1810 à 1840*.

The Vice-President of the National Assembly and Member for Beauce-Sud, Mrs. Diane Leblanc, distributed the awards within the framework of the second edition of Political Book Day in Québec. From left to right, Jean-René Thuot, Diane Leblanc, Caroline Patsias and Jean-Claude Picard.

CIVIL CODE EXHIBITION

From 14 September to 17 December 2004, the National Assembly and the Ministère de la Justice of Québec, in collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec and the Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec, presented at the Parliament Building an exhibition on the history of Québec's Civil Code entitled *The Civil Code: A Family History*. As one of the activities held in honour of the Fêtes du bicentenaire du Code civil des Français and of the tenth anniversary of the Québec Civil Code, this exhibition provided the historical background for the development of our civil law system, from New France to this day, through its impact on the family.

The exhibition was inaugurated officially on 14 September by the President of the Québec National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Québec, Mr. Jacques P. Dupuis, during a ceremony in which several dignitaries participated, including the President of the National Assembly of the French Republic, Mr. Jean-Louis Debré.

Opening ceremony of the exhibition entitled *The Civil Code: A Family History*, in the Legislative Council Room, on 14 September 2004.

COMMUNICATIONS

Publications

Directory of Members of the 37th Legislature

The National Assembly published the *Répertoire des parlementaires de la 37e législature*, which presents the 125 Members of the National Assembly of Québec. This document provides a veritable wealth of information, including the parliamentary duties and the contact information of each Member, as well as a map and the principal socioeconomic data for each electoral division.

Internet site

Since January 2005, all documents tabled during general and special consultations are available on the Internet site, in the section set aside for the appropriate standing committee. This addition to the site provides citizens with on-line access to the contents of briefs presented in committee. Moreover, new historical information has been added to the site with the inclusion of the reconstructed debates of the 2nd Session of the 17th Legislature (from 8 January 1929 to 4 April 1929) and those of the 1st Session of the 18th Legislature (from 3 November 1931 to 19 February 1932). Finally, it should be mentioned that visitors to the site will now find the list of ministerial officeholders since 1867. From the biographical notes of a large number of parliamentarians, it is also possible to obtain the list of their archives groups.

The National Assembly channel

The television channel of the National Assembly is a unique tool that allows Québec's population to learn more about the machinery of parliamentary democracy. Since its creation in 1978, the channel has not ceased to modernize itself. A multidisciplinary team composed of directors, cameramen, audio operators, editors, transcribers and revisers revolve around this tool that today has become essential, as it ensures the population's access to parliamentary information. Several special events, press conferences, press briefings and parliamentary simulations are now included in the broadcast programme. The parliamentary proceedings can be viewed via live broadcast, delayed broadcast or rebroadcast on the National Assembly channel, and live on the Internet site of the Assembly. The following table highlights the broadcast activities carried out in 2004-2005.

A multidisciplinary team composed of directors, cameramen, audio operators, editors, transcribers and revisers revolve around the National Assembly channel that today has become essential as it ensures the population's access to parliamentary information.

Broadcasting	Number of events	Duration
Cable broadcasting and satellite	1155	1907 h 12
	Continuous electronic hosting	6876 h 48
Total		**8784 h 00**

Webcasting	770	1618 h 51

The National Assembly and PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

The internationalization of life in society and its undeniable impact on social, cultural, economic and political issues prompt Parliaments to take a position on the international scene through the exchange of information, expertise, experiences and ideas. These relations that a Parliament maintains with one or several others are called interparliamentary relations. Parliamentary diplomacy is exercised within various international organizations as well as with members of the diplomatic and consular corps. Hence, for over half a century, the National Assembly has developed an important network of relations which fall into the following three broad categories:

- multilateral relations (relations between the Assembly and organizations bringing together several Parliaments);
- bilateral relations (relations between the Assembly and one other Parliament);
- interparliamentary cooperation (support to the reinforcement of parliamentary institutions in countries that are developing and consolidating democracy).

In our democratic systems based on the separation of powers, Parliaments conduct their international relations independently and in respect of political pluralism. The President of the National Assembly has the responsibility of representing the institution during international activities, whose non-partisan nature is ensured by delegations composed of Members from the various political groups represented at the Assembly.

MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

The Parliamentary Francophonie

A delegation of the National Assembly attended the 30th Session of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, from 3 to 7 July 2004. During this session, the President of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the APF, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, took part in the general opening debate, whose theme was «La relation du citoyen à la vie politique : crise et renouveau».

Moreover, the National Assembly of Québec is the initiator of the adoption by the APF of resolutions concerning more particularly the situation in Haiti, the drafting of a Convention on the diversity of cultural content by UNESCO and the Francophone Youth Parliament.

On the initiative of the Québec National Assembly, two seminars were organized in pursuance of the United Nations' objective to eliminate all forms of violence towards women. The first, intended for women parliamentarians of West Africa, was held in October 2004 in Bamako, Mali. The second will be held in Madagascar in 2005 and will bring together women parliamentarians of the Indian Ocean.

GLOSSARY

APF

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary assembly of French-speaking peoples); founded in 1967, composed of 72 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1974)

CPA

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; founded in 1911, composed of 171 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1933)

CSG

Council of State Governments of the United States; created in 1933, composed of representatives of the legislative, executive and judicial powers from the 50 United States and territories. (National Assembly: international associated member since 1995).

PCOA

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas; created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional Parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

NCSL

National Conference of State Legislatures; founded in 1975, composed of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and territories. (National Assembly: associated member since April 2000).

Finally, the Québec National Assembly delegation proposed that the APF's Cooperation and Development Commission discuss the theme concerning the follow-up of international trade negotiations within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO). A joint submission from the Québec and Burkina Faso Assemblies will enable parliamentarians of the Francophone area to be informed regularly on the impact of these negotiations among populations.

The Commonwealth

In September 2004, the National Assembly hosted the 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, in collaboration with the Canadian Federal section and the Ontario section. Brought together under a common theme, «Responsibilities and Rights of People and Parliaments in a Global Community», the 650 delegates in attendance, including over 150 Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Legislative Assemblies, represented 50 of the 53 countries forming the Commonwealth. With some 16,000 parliamentary members, the CPA represents more than 180 Parliaments and close to 1.75 billion individuals.

Among the activities that took place in Québec City, the following should be mentioned:

- the opening ceremony which featured the presence of the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson;
- the opening plenary, during which the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Mr. Don McKinnon, delivered a speech;
- the 24th Commonwealth Small Countries Conference;
- the Steering Committee meeting of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network.

Through these activities, the National Assembly benefits from considerable international visibility among the participants in attendance, not to mention the reinforcement of its reputation within the Association. They also provide an ideal opportunity for the President of the National Assembly to promote the interparliamentary and international relations network of the Parliament of Québec, as well as its expertise in strengthening democracy.

Moreover, during 2004-2005, the National Assembly has continued to establish closer relations with several legislative institutions of the United Kingdom. From 25 June to 2 July, the President of the National Assembly, accompanied by the House leaders and whips, carried out a mission to Westminster and to the Scottish Parliament. This approach falls within the reflection undertaken following the tabling of the President's global proposal on parliamentary reform concerning more particularly the use of new technologies at the Parliament, the participation of citizens and accountability. The President of the National

In September 2004, the National Assembly hosted the 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, in collaboration with the Canadian Federal section and the Ontario section. This event brought 650 delegates to Québec City.

Assembly was also invited to attend, on 9 October 2004, the official inauguration of the new Scottish Parliament. Finally, from 2 to 7 November, the Steering Committee of the Québec Section of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) conducted a work visit to the Scottish Parliament, at the invitation of its Presiding Officer, the Right Honourable George Reid. The themes examined included the official languages policy, regional economic development through tourism, and strategies to bring the Parliament and its citizens closer together.

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (PCOA)

The National Assembly took part in a goodwill mission that the PCOA carried out in Haiti, from 11 to 15 November 2004. The purpose of this mission, in which a woman Member of the National Assembly took part, was to gather the viewpoints of the key players who are working to resolve the political crisis in Haiti since the legislative elections in May 2000. The PCOA delegation was thus able to exchange with representatives of the transitional government, including the interim Prime Minister of Haiti, Mr. Gérard Latortue, head officers of the Democratic Convergence Party, former parliamentarians of the Famni Lavalas Party, as well as with the authorities of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

Furthermore, on 20 May 2004, the Québec section of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas organized a conference breakfast on the impacts of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) on women. Moreover, on 4 June 2004, the Québec section of the PCOA invited the Members of the National Assembly to a conference on the current state of the FTAA negotiations and on Québec's position within the framework of these discussions.

The United States

The National Assembly is an international associated member of the *National Conference of State Legislatures* (NCSL). The organization's General Assembly, which met in Salt Lake City in July 2004, adopted an amendment to its statutes and regulations allowing the National Assembly to officially become a member of two of the fifteen standing committees of the NCSL, namely the Committee on Economic Development, Trade and Cultural Affairs, and the Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources.

As an international associated member of the *Council of State Governments* (CSG) and of its *Eastern chapter, the Eastern Regional Conference* (ERC), the National Assembly holds responsible positions in the executive committees of the CSG and of the ERC, as well as the vice-chairmanship of the Committee on Canada-United-States Relations and of the Committee on Energy and the Environment at

the ERC. In view of the ERC's annual assembly that will be held in 2007 at the National Assembly, a hospitality committee, chaired by the First Vice-President, has been set up.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

France-Québec Interparliamentary Cooperation

From 12 to 14 September 2004, the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, welcomed his counterpart from the French National Assembly, Mr. Jean-Louis Debré. The France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee marked this year the 25th anniversary of its creation. The proceedings of the 18th Session of the Committee mainly focussed on the health systems in Québec and in France, particularly with regard to financing, the impact of the aging population, health insurance, and cultural and linguistic diversity.

Furthermore, from 18 to 25 April 2004, the National Assembly welcomed the France-Québec Interparliamentary Group of the French Senate, which, for the occasion, took a closer look at Québec's health system and territorial administration.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the creation of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, and his French counterpart, Mr. Jean-Louis Debré, took part in the planting of a European oak on the premises of the Parliament Building.

Interparliamentary cooperation with the Parliament of the French Community of Belgium and the Walloon Parliament

From 21 to 23 February 2005, six Québec parliamentarians took part in the 18th Session of the National Assembly / Parliament of the French Community of Belgium Joint Committee, whose principle themes were the financing of federated entities and assistance and youth protection programmes. This session marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of this Committee, created in Québec City in 1979.

Subsequently, the Québec delegation took part in the 2nd Session of the National Assembly / Walloon Parliament Joint Committee that was held on 24 and 25 February 2005 in Namur, Wallonia, to discuss sustainable development.

Relations with other States and European institutions

The Québec National Assembly has substantially developed its relations with Italy in 2004 and 2005. During a mission carried out from 4 to 8 February 2005, the President of the National Assembly met, among other parliamentarians, the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Mr. Pier Ferdinando Casini. President Bissonnet took the opportunity to officially invite Mr. Casini to Québec during 2005. Furthermore, from 26 September to 1 October 2004, the National Assembly welcomed twelve of the twenty presidents and vice-presidents of the Italian regional councils, with whom the Québec parliamentarians had favourable exchanges on parliamentary institutions, immigration and the integration of immigrants, as well as on regional economic development.

Germany remains a privileged partner of the National Assembly. In October 2004, the National Assembly welcomed the members of the Committee on Education, Youth and Sports, as well as the Interparliamentary Committee on New Technologies of the Bavarian Landtag, who came to the National Assembly to gather information on the technological resources at the disposal of the parliamentarians and the administrative personnel.

Finally, certain Québec Members conducted a mission to the European institutions from 21 to 25 February 2005, during which the topics for discussion included regional development, genetically engineered organisms, food safety and the voting procedure reform project.

Signing of an agreement with the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

In spring 2004, the National Assembly, on the initiative of its President, proposed to the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick that a formal bilateral cooperation agreement be signed, similarly to the relations it maintains with Ontario. New Brunswick and Québec parliamentarians already enjoyed close relations within the America region of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie and the Canadian region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and it now appeared necessary to constitute a forum where they could hold regular meetings on matters of bilateral concern.

On 1 September 2004, the President of the Québec National Assembly and his counterpart from the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick signed an agreement creating the New Brunswick - Québec Parliamentary Association. The Association held its first session in Québec City, from 17 to 20 October 2004, during which several themes were discussed, particularly regional economic development through tourism, automobile insurance and on-line government.

On 1 September 2004, the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, and his counterpart from New Brunswick, Mr. Bev Harrison, signed an agreement creating the New Brunswick - Québec Parliamentary Association.

The Documentary Studies Service provides support to the Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate by drafting speaking notes, speeches and summaries on various questions with relation to the mandates and responsibilities of parliamentarians. In 2004-2005, the Service drafted more than 75 documents for international activities.

Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association (OQPA)

The purpose of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association is to develop interparliamentary cooperation between both Assemblies, especially on the legislative, cultural, economic, scientific and technological levels, in addition to reinforcing friendly relations more generally.

The 14th General Assembly of the OQPA was held in Québec City from 17 to 19 November 2004. In addition to discussing the current political issues in Ontario and Québec, the parliamentarians also exchanged views on the energy situation and the improvement of health services for the elderly in order to meet the needs of an aging population.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

For several years now, the National Assembly has played an active role in reinforcing parliamentary democracy by providing to the parliamentary institutions of countries that are developing and consolidating democracy the technical support they need to reinforce their operations on a parliamentary or administrative level.

Within this framework, an exchange seminar for parliamentarians took place at the National Assembly of Benin, in Porto-Novo, from 3 to 5 November 2004. This mission enabled Members to improve their practice of parliamentarism by sharing their experiences as elected officials, legislators and controllers of the governmental activity. From 2 to 6 May 2004, the Assembly also hosted in Québec City a delegation of four Members from the National Assembly of Niger who came to learn about the functioning of Québec's parliamentary system and the strategies to reduce poverty. Moreover, a delegation of three parliamentarians from the National Assembly of Mali carried out a visit to Québec City, from 20 to 27 November 2004, to examine the general operations of the Québec National Assembly.

THE OFFICIAL VISITS

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec City. In 2004-2005, the National Assembly welcomed the following:

Assembly Speakers and Deputy Speakers:

Mr. Alvin Curling	Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Mr. Jean-Louis Debré	President of the National Assembly of the French Republic
Mr. Luigi Fedele	President of the Regional Council of Calabria
Mr. Claudio Fazzone	President of the Regional Council of Latium
Mr. Mauro Tippolotti	President of the Regional Council of Umbria
Mr. Roberto Cota	President of the Regional Council of Piedmont
Mr. Guido Lo Porto	President of the Sicilian Regional Assembly
Mr. Ego Perron	President of the Regional Council of the Aosta Valley
Mr. Antonio Menna	Vice-President of the Regional Council of the Abruzzi
Mr. Antonio Corbo	Vice-President of the Regional Council of the Basilicate
Mr. Pietro Paolo Ferraiuolo	Vice-President of the Regional Council of Campania
Mr. Massimilano Iacobucci	Vice-President of the Regional Council of Liguria
Mr. Bev Harrison	Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick
Mr. Harold Long	Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
Mr. Mountaga Tall	First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali
Mr. Cy Richard Leblanc	Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, accompanied by Members of the New Brunswick - Québec Parliamentary Association

Overview of the national and international figures on official **visits** at the Assembly in 2004-2005:

33 Government representatives

28 foreign diplomats

29 parliamentarians

Members :

Mr. Claude Goasguen	Chairman of the France-Québec Friendship Group of the French National Assembly and Member for Paris, accompanied by a delegation of Members
Senator Michel Mercier	First Vice-President of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Group of the Senate of the French Republic and head of the delegation, accompanied by senators

Members of the 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

Members of the 18th Session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee

Members of the 14th General Assembly of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association (OQPA)

Government representatives :

Mr. Roberto Requiao de Mello e Silva	Governor of the State of Paraná of the Federative Republic of Brazil
Mr. Zaza Manintranja Ramandimbiarison	Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the economic programmes of the Republic of Madagascar and a delegation of ministers, secretaries of State and secretaries general
Mrs. Leila Shahid	General Delegate of Palestine to France
Mr. Edmund Stoiber	Minister-President of Bavaria (Germany)
Mr. Ebrahim Rasool	Premier of Western Cape (South Africa)
Mr. Joseh Pühringer	Minister-President of Upper Austria
Mr. Han Yuqun	Governor of Shandong (China)
Mr. Jacques Sylla	Prime Minister of the Republic of Madagascar
Mr. Paramanga Ernest Yonli	Prime Minister of Burkina Faso

The National Assembly and ITS HERITAGE

THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

Reconstruction of debates

Almost 100 years of parliamentary debates have recently been reconstructed by the National Assembly Library. Once all of the sessions have been edited, Quebecers will dispose of an invaluable heritage source, providing information on history, politics and parliamentary jurisprudence as well as increasing knowledge of the parliamentary institutions.

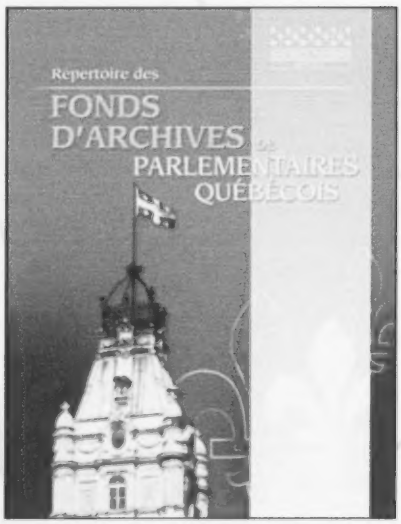
As at 31 March 2005, close to two thirds of the 65,000 pages of reconstructed debates (between 1867 and 1927) had been published. The printed collection already contains 36 volumes, and 21 sessions (between 1908 and 1927) are also available on the Internet site of the National Assembly.

Members' archives

In application of the agreement between the National Assembly and the National Archives of Québec for the conservation of Québec Members' archives, training sessions were developed to instruct the staff members of parliamentarians on the classification and management of active records. In this regard, seven sessions were given in 2004-2005 to 55 participants in the Québec and Montréal regions.

DIRECTORY OF ARCHIVES GROUPS OF QUÉBEC PARLIAMENTARIANS

In order to enable citizens to better understand the role of Québec parliamentarians, the Archives Division of the Assembly Library produced the third edition of the *Répertoire des fonds d'archives de parlementaires québécois* (Directory of archives groups of Québec parliamentarians). This research tool contains the archives of 700 parliamentarians having held the office of Member, Legislative Counsel, Special Advisor, Governor and Lieutenant-governor from 1792 to this day. This unique documentary heritage is conserved in 73 archives services located in Canada and the United States. The directory is available on the National Assembly Web site.



Administrative documentation

Initiated some years ago, the progressive development of the document management system in the administrative units of the National Assembly has now been completed. More than 8080 active files frequently used for administrative, legal or financial purposes and 4219 semi-active files used occasionally and stored in a warehouse were added to the data bank during the year. Furthermore, with the release of the second edition of the *Calendrier de conservation des documents de l'Assemblée nationale* (National Assembly documents conservation calendar), the year 2004-2005 marked the conclusion of the overall revision of the conservation rules respecting printed administrative documentation.

The Library's computerized catalogue, which may be consulted on the Internet site of the National Assembly, now contains **255,944 entries**, including **4736 electronic documents that are accessible on-line**. Through the archival storage of digital texts on its server, the Library continues to develop its virtual library, a concept that encompasses more specifically the electronic resources (locally created or digitalized, or acquired through outside suppliers) as well as services to customers using leading-edge technology in order to more efficiently retrieve, process and disseminate information.

Press documents digitalization project

In pursuance of the implementation of a virtual library, the National Assembly commenced the digitalization of historical press documentation files accumulated since 1972 and which represent over two million pages. These press clipping files, classified by subject, represent a unique source of information on all aspects of Québec life, and more particularly on social and political issues.

The digitilization and computer processing of these files will facilitate access to this extensive documentation and will enable much subtler and faster searches. Optical character scanning technology allows for searching by key words within the text of the newspaper articles.

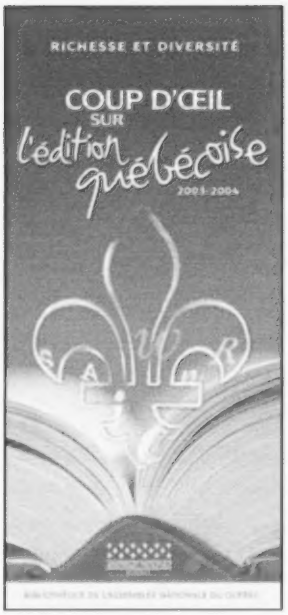
Library collections

As at 31 March 2005, the Library had on its shelves over 1.9 million documents, which are distributed as follows:

Printed matter	
monographs, fascicles and brochures	456,648
magazines	247,513
newspapers	643,535
Microform documents	
microfilms	34,533
microfiches	544,788
Electronic documents (diskettes and CD-ROMs)	1708
Audio recordings	191
Videocassettes	509
Posters, maps and photographs	935
Total	1,930,360

Book donations

In October 2004, the Association nationale des éditeurs de livres (ANEL), a book publishers' association, donated 2415 books to the National Assembly Library, typical of the past year's publishing production in Québec. This donation led to the holding of an exhibition, which started in February 2005 at the Library, illustrating the diversity and vitality of literary production and book publishing in Québec. Several works were integrated into the Library collections, and thus contribute to enriching the National Assembly's documentary heritage.



A FEW NUMBERS...

In 2004-2005, the personnel of the Reference Service **answered 12,700** information and search requests. Of this number, **4474 were made by parliamentarians**, their collaborators, parliamentary officials or organizations under the authority of the National Assembly.

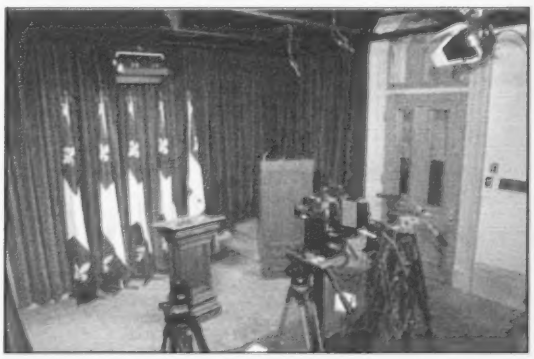
More than **8200 persons** visited the Library in Pamphile-Le May Building, including **5147 users** and **3053 visitors**.

Users took advantage of the documentary sources at their disposal by carrying out **55,227 consultations on site**, by borrowing **7402 documents** or by requesting over **210,200 photocopies** from sources available at the Library.

THE ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN HERITAGE

Bernard-Lalonde Room is modernized

Bernard-Lalonde Room, which is used for Members' briefings, has been modernized during the past year. Newer, more useful facilities and equipment to enhance performance will henceforth facilitate the work of parliamentarians and media teams. The room was redesigned with in mind the possibility of seating a larger number of press representatives. In addition to the installation of a new televisual lighting system, changes were made to the microphone holders and the sound transmission and distribution equipment were also redesigned in order to meet the «Broadcast» reliability criteria.



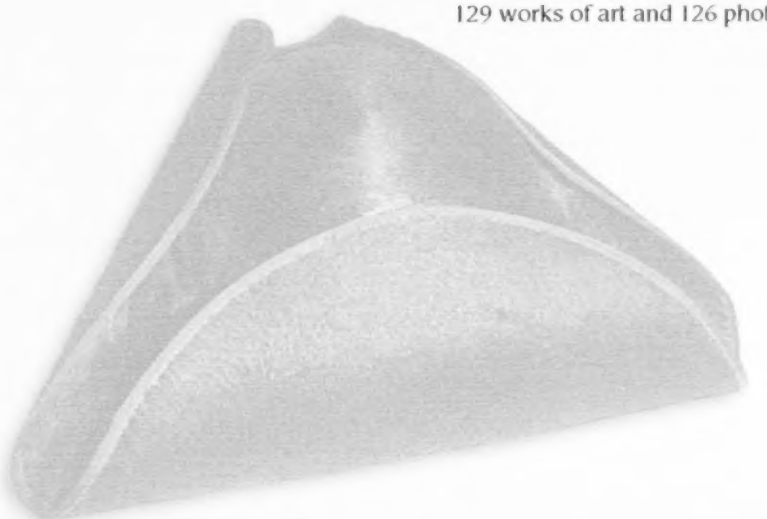
The room where Members' briefings are held is modernized.

Promoting Parliament Hill

The enhancement of the parliamentary and governmental sectors on Parliament Hill will be completed with the conclusion of the seventh and final phase of this project that was initiated in 1999 and carried out jointly with the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec. Ever-mindful of enhancing the appearance of the premises, masonry work was carried out on the perimeters of the Parliament Building during the past year.

Inventory of heritage property

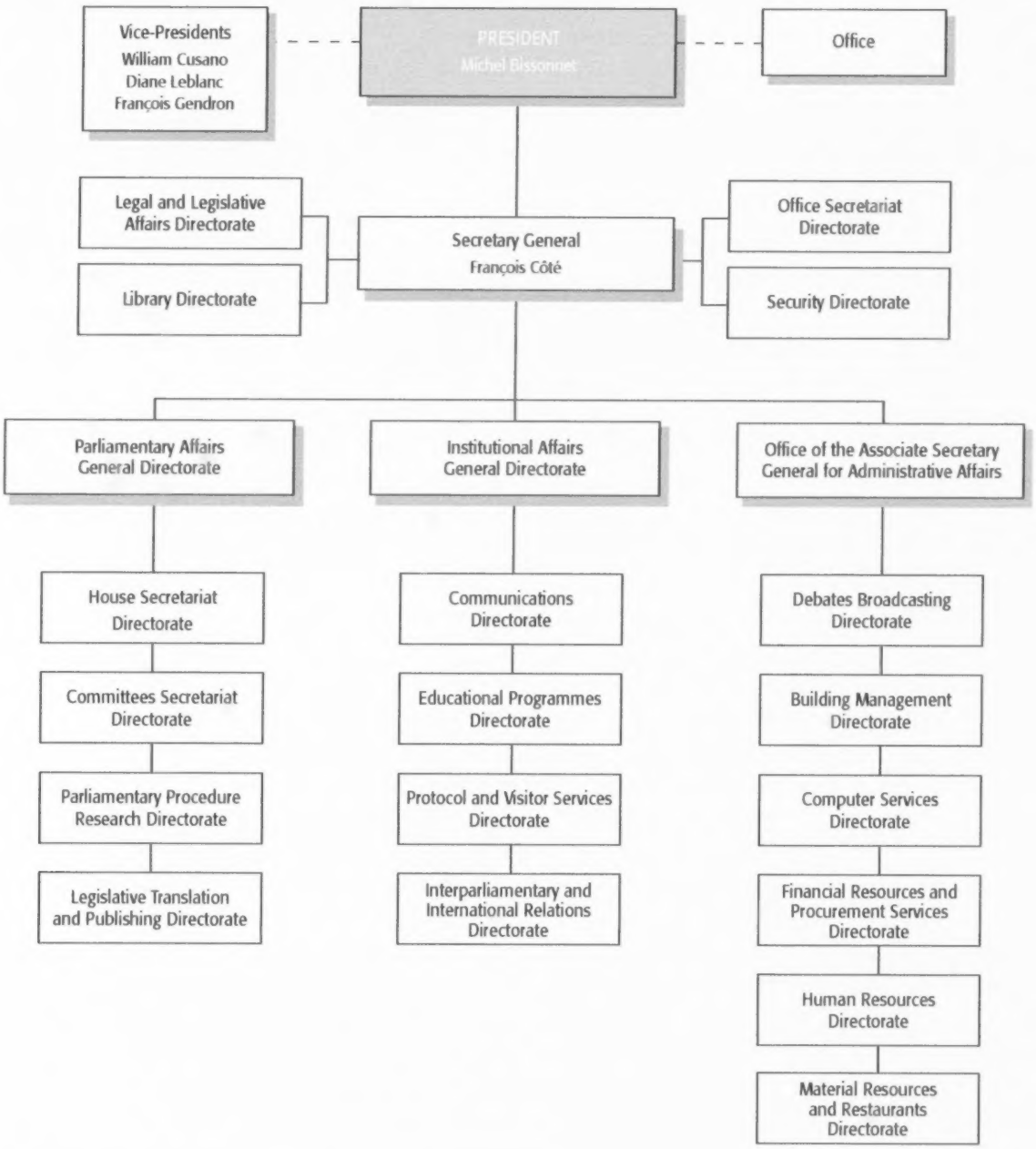
The Library carried out an important updating of the inventory of the heritage property belonging to the National Assembly of Québec, thus identifying 6696 objects, including 1201 movable property items, 129 works of art and 126 photographs.



The Library contains 6696 heritage objects, including this tricorn worn by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod which is currently at the museum reserve of the Musée de la civilisation.

The National Assembly and ITS ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



The mandates of the administrative units are in appendix.

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 2004-2009

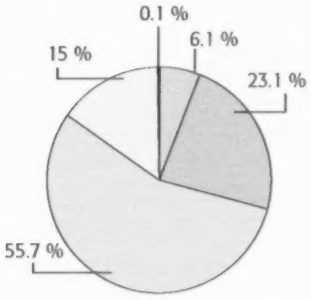
The *Strategic Plan of the Administration of the National Assembly, 2004-2009*, was tabled at the end of the fiscal year. It defines the vision, the strategic priorities and initiatives that the administration of the National Assembly intends to implement to adequately meet the needs of emerging challenges.

With this in mind, the administration of the National Assembly focussed on four priority orientations:

- Support the reflection and implementation of Members' decisions with regard to the parliamentary reform;
- Take advantage of the possibilities provided by progress and technological innovations, particularly by offering quality on-line products and services, in order to better meet the needs of citizens and parliamentarians;
- Increase outreach and promote better knowledge of the National Assembly and of its Members among certain specific groups and the population in general;
- Stimulate innovation and the optimal mobilization of resources to ensure the continuity and ongoing improvement of the delivery of services.

The plan, which is in line with the 2002-2004 strategic plan, aims to improve services to Members and the population. Several of the objectives stated therein were achieved during the year 2004-2005.

Statistics on the distribution of the administrative sector workforce per employment category as at 31 March 2005



Executives	6.1 %
Professionals	23.1 %
Public servants	55.7 %
Workers	15 %
Others	0.1 %
Women	53 %
Men	47 %

THE PERSONNEL

The workforce

As at 31 March 2005, the authorized workforce of the administrative sector of the Assembly consisted of 485 regular employees and 208 casual employees, for a total of 693 employees. The political sector, composed of executive assistants, political attachés, advisors and support staff, comprises 500 persons, both on Parliament Hill and in the Members' riding offices.

Employees per age group as at 31 March 2005, administrative sector	
35 years and under	22 %
36 - 40 years	9 %
41 - 45 years	14 %
46 - 50 years	19 %
51 - 55 years	20 %
56 years and over	16 %

Employee development

To carry out its mission, the National Assembly relies on the skills and performance of its personnel. Therefore, during the past year, the *Skills Development Programme for Executives* was established. This programme focusses on both general and specific management skills, and on knowledge of oneself and of one's environment.

New pedagogical tools were also added to the *Skills Development Programme for Employees*. Customized training was opted for by several executives, especially with regard to written communication, customer service, security, parliamentary procedure, and information technologies.

In 2004-2005, the Parliamentary Affairs General Directorate gave a course in parliamentary procedure for executives and the professional staff of the other activities sectors of the National Assembly. This course allows the staff to become more familiar with the rules of procedure that govern the parliamentary proceedings, both in the Assembly and in committee.

In autumn 2004, two two-day courses were given to the executives and the personnel of the Library Directorate, the Computer Directorate and the Debates Broadcasting Directorate. More than 50 persons were able to benefit from this development course, thus improving service provided to Members.

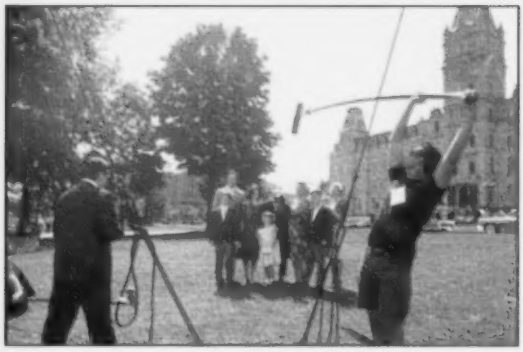
A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF DEDICATION

In 2004-2005, the National Assembly expressed its consideration and recognition to the 9 employees who, in the past year, reached 25 years of service at the National Assembly or in Québec's public service. Of this number, 7 persons had been in the employ of our institution for a quarter of a century.

LIST OF EMPLOYEES HAVING ATTAINED 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	WITHIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE
Nicole Beauchamp	James Maranda
Réal Cléroult	Lucie Giguère
Jean-Noël Lamoureux	
Henri Lamonde	
Jean-Claude Therrien	
Jocelyne Létourneau	
Danielle Cloutier	

In 2004-2005, the National Assembly expressed its consideration and recognition to the employees who, in the past year, had completed 25 years of service.



QUIET, WE'RE ROLLING!

In August 2004, a crew from the Ciné-Télé Action production company undertook six days of film shooting at the National Assembly for the production of a fictional series on René Lévesque. The National Assembly Chamber, the Legislative Council Chamber, Louis-Hippolyte-La Fontaine Room, Office RC 45, which was Mr. Lévesque's office when he first arrived at the Assembly in 1960, as well as the premises of the Parliament Building were thus transformed into a film production set.

AWARDS GIVEN TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The *Prix des Dix* was awarded to Mr. Jocelyn St-Pierre for his career devoted to the history of the National Assembly and of the parliamentary press. Emeritus historian, he worked for 30 years on the reconstruction of the debates of the Québec Parliament.

The *National Conference of State Legislatures* granted the Legislative *Staff Achievement Award* to Mr. Richard Daignault for his contribution to promoting the interests of the Assembly within this organization for close to 15 years.

THE INTRANET PORTAL

The Intranet Portal has become an indispensable communication and work tool for the parliamentarians, their staff and the administrative personnel. Statistics for autumn 2004 indicate that an average of 90 % of the employees use the Portal daily.

This year, 735 news features concerning parliamentary activities, the organization and proceedings of the Assembly and the major administrative decisions were broadcast. As an example, the awareness campaign on a smoke-free Assembly should be mentioned. Moreover, 480 documents were added to the 2160 documents that are already permanently available on the Portal, including one on the proper use of upper and lower case at the National Assembly.

Since April 2004, *the Boutique* catalogue is available on the Portal of the National Assembly. The catalogue can be accessed via the «Députés» and «Liens utiles» headings.

UPPER OR LOWER CASE?

The quality of French being an overriding concern of the institution, the Assembly's Comité d'amélioration du français écrit (committee for the improvement of written French), also known as the CAFÉ, produced a document entitled «*Le bon emploi des majuscules et des minuscules à l'Assemblée nationale*» (the proper use of upper and lower case at the National Assembly) for the purpose of standardizing texts. This document was converted to electronic format to be used as an interactive linguistic reference tool that is accessible to all members of the personnel via the Intranet Portal of the Assembly.

On 21 March, the members of the Assembly's CAFÉ received, in the name of the institution, an honourable mention for their outstanding contribution to promoting French at the *Les Mérites du français* Gala, organized by the Office québécois de la langue française.

CENTRAIDE CAMPAIGN 2004

The Assembly raised **$41,143.63** during the Centraide Campaign 2004, which represents an increase of 11% compared to the previous campaign. This year, the promotion of the event focussed on the slogan ***Un p'tit huard par paie, c'est pas la faim du monde*** (Just a dollar per pay will go a long way). During the first week of November 2004, daily posters were put up and humorous vignettes were broadcast on the Intranet Portal. Through these messages, the personnel of the National Assembly were able to grasp the importance of making a donation to Centraide, no matter how small the amount.

A video message by the chair and co-chairs, Mmes. Margaret F. Delisle, Member for Jean-Talon, Noëlla Champagne, Member for Champlain, and Mr. Janvier Grondin, Member for Beauce-Nord, was taped at the *Café rencontre du centre ville* and broadcast on the Portal. It was viewed by 658 persons.

THE TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT

The computerization of the consideration of bills in the standing committees

This year, the National Assembly innovated by launching a pilot project to modernize the process surrounding the consideration of bills in the standing committees. Whenever they so desire, parliamentarians may connect their portable computer in Louis-Joseph-Papineau Room and thus access a collaborative work area containing a virtual library of documents comprising reference works and Internet links. This technological support will greatly facilitate the work of Members in the future.

The office technology resource pool of the National Assembly comprises a total of **1262 micro-computers** and **379 printers** installed on Parliament Hill and in the riding offices.

Computer security

During the past year, the National Assembly implemented a new technological architecture to meet the most recent computer security requirements. Several actions were carried out to increase the efficiency of the computer systems used by the personnel. Over 450 Windows 98 workstations in the administrative sector were replaced by Windows XP. Twenty-five servers also migrated to Windows 2003, and in the riding offices internal memory was added to the telecommunications equipment to reinforce security.

INFINI (acronym of the French words «**In**formation **fin**ancière **i**ntégrée») is a financial and budget management tool. It enables Members or administrative executives who are in an electoral division or on Parliament Hill to simultaneously and safely share official financial information.

The new computer environment of the National Assembly gave rise to the implementation of this management tool within the administrative units and in the Members' ridings. The installation of the INFINI application was carried out between May 2004 and January 2005. An information guide for users was produced and close to 100 users took part in the training sessions.

More efficient parliamentary work thanks to multimedia

In 2004-2005, the National Assembly expanded its horizon with the implementation of multimedia technology infrastructures. The four broadcasting cameras in Louis-Joseph-Papineau Room were robotized and three large flat screens were installed on the walls. These new installations increase the efficiency of the work of parliamentarians.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY EXPENDITURE FOR 2004-2005

	Expenditure ($ 000)	Authorized staff positions	
		Permanent employees*	Casual employees*
SECRETARY GENERAL, LEGAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARY & SECURITY			
Office of the Secretary General	1 153,9	16	1
Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate	416,5	6	0
Library Directorate	3 763,8	64	2
Security Directorate	1 619,1	31	13
	6,953.3	**117**	**16**
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS			
General Directorate of Parliamentary Affairs	222,6	3	0
Documentary Studies Directorate	984,9	17	0
House Secretarial Directorate	600,3	7	6
Committee Secretarial Directorate	1 155,9	22	0
Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate	266,9	6	0
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	390,5	18	0
	3,621.1	**73**	**6**
INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS			
General Directorate of Institutional Affairs	140,7	2	0
Communications Directorate	1 264,1	21	1
Educational Programmes Directorate	624,5	9	0
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	1 993,9	27	9
Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate	2 284,7	24	0
	6,307.9	**83**	**10**
ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT			
Associate General Secretariat for Administrative Affairs	391,3	7	0
Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate	4 887,4	56	34
Building Management Directorate	8 522,8	31	3
Computer Services Directorate	3 595,4	42	1
Salary adjustment of legal officers	140,0		
	17,536.9	**136**	**38**
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT			
Financial Resources and Procurement Services Directorate	1 111,7	25	0
Human Resources Directorate	7 780,3	20	0
Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate	4 837,5	51	22
	13,729.5	**96**	**22**
STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES TO MEMBERS	**43,833.2**		
FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATION	**5,637.9**		
TOTAL EXPENSES	**97,619.8**	**505**	**92**

* Authorized FTEs (full time equivalents).

APPENDICES

BILLS PASSED IN 2004-2005

The initialism in the second column identifies the parliamentary committee that gave consideration to the bill. The committees are identified as follows:

Committee of the Whole (CW)
Committee on the National Assembly (CNA)
Committee on Culture (CC)
Committee on Public Administration (CPA)
Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (CAFF)
Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (CPP)
Committee on Labour and the Economy (CLE)
Committee on Education (CE)
Committee on Social Affairs (CSA)
Committee on Public Finance (CPF)
Committee on Institutions (CI)
Committee on Transportation and the Environment (CTE)

Government Bills

11	CSA	An Act to implement the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and to amend various legislative provisions in relation to adoption
20	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu and other legislative provisions
21	CI	An Act to amend the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure as regards the determination of child support payments
36	CPF	An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions
39	CLE	An Act to amend the Forest Act
40	CI	An Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure with respect to the time limit for inscription
41	CI	An Act to amend the Professional Code
42	CC	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning professional artists
44	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Environnement, the Environment Quality Act and other legislative provisions
45	CPF	An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 12 June 2003 and to certain other budget statements
46	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting Attorney General's prosecutors and the Labour Code
47	CPF	An Act to amend the Tobacco Tax Act and the Fuel Tax Act
48	CTE	An Act to repeal the Act respecting the Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec and to amend other legislative provisions
49	CI	An Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure as regards small claims
50	CI	An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and other legislative provisions as regards the status of justices of the peace
51		Appropriation Act No. 2, 2004-2005
52	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu
53	CC	An Act to amend the Act respecting immigration to Québec
54	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
55	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec and other legislative provisions
56	CSA	An Act to amend the Act to secure the handicapped in the exercise of their rights and other legislative provisions

58	CW	An Act to abolish rents in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine
59	CI	An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards marriage
60	CPF	An Act respecting the Société de financement des infrastructures locales du Québec and amending the Highway Safety Code
61	CPF	An Act respecting the Agence des partenariats public-privé du Québec (motion to suspend certain rules of procedure)
63	CPF	An Act respecting Services Québec (motion to suspend certain rules of procedure)
64	CI	An Act to amend the Election Act
66	CW	An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly
67	CE	An Act to amend the Act respecting financial assistance for education expenses
69	CC	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, the Archives Act and other legislative provisions
70	CPF	An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 30 March 2004 to introduce family support measures and giving effect to certain other budget statements
71	CW	An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions applicable to forest management activities
72	CPF	An Act to amend the Securities Act and other legislative provisions
73	CE	An Act to amend the Education Act and the Act respecting private education
74	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Pension Plan of Peace Officers in Correctional Services and other legislative provisions
75	CPP	An Act respecting the exercise of certain municipal powers in certain urban agglomerations (motion to suspend certain rules of procedure)
77	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu (modified title)
78	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (motion to suspend certain rules of procedure)
79	CLE	An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act as regards the establishment of separate programs
81	CLE	An Act to repeal the Act respecting the establishment of a steel complex by Sidbec and the Act respecting the Société du parc industriel et portuaire Québec-Sud
84	CW	An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act
90	CW	An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles
91		An Act to authorize certain appropriations necessary for the administration of the Government from 1 April 2005

Bills at the stage of their clause-by-clause consideration in committee

4	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting administrative justice
35	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting administrative justice and other legislative provisions
57	CSA	Individual and Family Assistance Act
62	CPP	Municipal Powers Act
68	CLE	An Act to repeal the Act respecting the Société de développement de la Zone de commerce international de Montréal à Mirabel
80	CI	An Act to amend the Police Act

Bills at the consultation stage

83	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions

85	CPF	An Act respecting the Centre de services administratifs
88	CI	Private Security Act

Bills for which the report has not yet been tabled

2	CI	An Act respecting the reciprocal issue and enforcement of support orders

Bills at the stage of their passage in principle

38	CSA	An Act respecting the Health and Welfare Commissioner

Bills at the stage of their introduction

76		An Act to repeal the Act respecting the Commission municipale and to amend various legislative provisions
86		An Act to amend the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information and other legislative provisions
89		An Act respecting clinical and research activities as regards assisted human reproduction and amending other legislative provisions

Private Members' Public Bills at the stage of their introduction

191		An Act to provide a fixed date for the election of Members of the National Assembly as of 16 April 2007
197		An Act to facilitate organ donation
198		An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards
199		An Act to amend the Transport Act

Private Members' Public Bills for which the report has not yet been tabled

195	CPF	An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act

Private Bills

206	CPP	An Act respecting Village de Kingsbury
207	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Blainville
208	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Murdochville
209	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de La Pocatière
210	CPF	An Act respecting Compagnie de cimetières catholiques des Bois-Francs
211	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de New Richmond
212	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Brownsburg-Chatham, Ville de Lachute and Municipalité de Wentworth-Nord
213	CPP	An Act respecting the Municipalité régionale de comté d'Arthabaska
214	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté de Lac-Saint-Jean-Est
215	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de La Tuque
216	CPF	An Act respecting Desjardins Trust Inc. and Desjardins Specialized Financial Services Management Inc.
217	CPF	An Act respecting Industrial-Alliance Trust Company
218	CPF	An Act respecting Laurentian Trust of Canada Inc.
219	CI	An Act respecting the Association des policiers provinciaux du Québec
221	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Sherbrooke
222	CSA	An Act respecting the « Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Sherbrooke et sa version Sherbrooke Geriatric University Institute »
223	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Baie-Comeau

Private Bills at the stage of their clause-by-clause consideration

220	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Thetford Mines

MANDATES CARRIED OUT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES IN 2004-2005

Subcommitee on Parliamentary Reform

Discussion within the framework of the parliamentary reform process

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies concerning:

- help to students experiencing learning problems (Education)
- follow-ups on the reorganization and development of residential services for persons in need of assistance and the reorganization of home care services (Health and Social Services)
- computer security management (Revenue, Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, Treasury Board, Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec)
- the management of the subway network extension project on the territory of the City of Laval (Transport, Agence métropolitaine)
- follow-up on resources optimization with regard to the management of the Québec sales tax and the goods and services tax (Revenue)
- management of goods obtained from criminal activities (Justice)
- state of the situation regarding agencies and independent service units and examination of the report on the implementation of the Public Administration Act (Treasury Board)
- state of the situation regarding the quality of performance information (Employment and Social Solidarity)

Examination of financial commitments

Other mandate:

- Hearing of the Auditor General within the framework of the examination of his annual management report 2003-2004 and the examination of his financial commitments for the months of April 2003 to March 2004

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

Order of initiative:

- The new issues surrounding food safety (continuation)

Other mandate:

- Election of the committee vice-chairman

Committee on Social Affairs

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills 1 private bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

Interpellations:

- The recent opinion of the Conseil de la famille et de l'enfance entitled «Vieillissement et santé fragile : un choc pour la famille?»
- «The prescription drug policy and the relations between doctors and pharmacists»

Consultations:

- General consultation within the framework of the consideration of Bill 56, An Act to amend the Act to secure the handicapped in the exercise of their rights and other legislative provisions
- General consultation within the framework of the consideration of Bill 57, Individual and Family Assistance Act
- General consultation within the framework of the consideration of Bill 83, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions
- General consultation – «For a New Social Contract of Equality between Women and Men»

Surveillance of agencies:

- Corporation d'hébergement du Québec
- Institut national de santé publique du Québec, its 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 financial statements and annual reports

Other mandates:

- Hearing of the Nunavik Regional Health and Social Services Board within the framework of the examination of its 2002-2003 annual report
- Hearing of the Bas-St-Laurent Local Health and Social Services Network Development Agency within the framework of the examination of the 2002-2003 annual report of the Bas-St-Laurent Regional Health and Social Services Board
- Hearing of the Outaouais Local Health and Social Services Network Development Agency within the framework of the examination of the 2002-2003 annual report of the Outaouais Regional Health and Social Services Board
- Hearing of the Chaudière-Appalaches Local Health and Social Services Network Development Agency within the framework of the examination of the 2002-2003 annual report of the Chaudière-Appalaches Regional Health and Social Services Board
- Hearing of the Estrie Local Health and Social Services Network Development Agency within the framework of the examination of the 2002-2003 annual report of the Estrie Regional Health and Social Services Board
- Hearing of the Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec Local Health and Social Services Network Development Agency within the framework of the examination of the 2002-2003 annual report of the Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec Regional Health and Social Services Board
- Election of the committee vice-chairman

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills 11 private bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

Interpellation:

- The abandonment of the national capital by the Liberal Government

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 54, An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 62, Municipal Powers Act

Surveillance of agencies:

- Commission municipale du Québec
- Société d'habitation du Québec

Other mandate:

- Hearing of the Commission de la Capitale nationale du Québec within the framework of the examination of its financial statements, its activity report and its development plan

Committee on Culture

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 53, An Act to amend the Act respecting immigration to Québec
- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 69, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, the Archives Act and other legislative provisions

Other mandate:

- Election of the chairman of the Committee

Committee on Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

Interpellation:

- The Government's education policy

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 73, An Act to amend the Education Act and the Act respecting private education
- General consultation – «The issues surrounding the quality, accessibility and financing of Québec universities» (continuation)

Surveillance of agencies:

- Conseil supérieur de l'éducation

Other mandates:

- Hearing of the executive officers of universities with regard to their annual reports (continuation)
- Election of the chairman of the Committee

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

Interpellations:

- The extension of the opening hours of businesses
- The political direction of the Papiers Gaspésia project

Consultation:

- Special consultations and general consultation – The Energy Sector in Québec – Context, Issues and Questions

Order of initiative:

- Hydro-Québec's Strategic Plan 2004-2008

Other mandates:

- Examination of the draft regulation on pay equity in enterprises where there are no predominantly male job classes
- Election of the chairman of the Committee
- Examination of the Report on the implementation of the provisions of the Act respecting labour standards as regards differences in treatment

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 13 public bills 4 private bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

Interpellation:

- the reengineering of the Québec State

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 195, An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act
- General consultation within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 61, An Act respecting the Agence des partenariats public-privé du Québec
- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 78, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec

Surveillance of agencies:

- Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances (continuation)

Other mandates:

- Continuation of the debate on the budget speech
- Election of the chairman of the Committee

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 9 public bills 1 private bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 50, An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and other legislative provisions as regards the status of justices of the peace
- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 80, An Act to amend the Police Act
- General consultation within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 88, Private Security Act
- Special consultations on the document entitled «La sécurité privée – partenaire de la sécurité intérieure» (continuation)

Other mandate:

- Election of the vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

Interpellation:

- The implementation of the National Water Policy

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 48, An Act to repeal the Act respecting the Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec and to amend other legislative provisions
- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 55, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec and other legislative provisions
- General consultation within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 44, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Environnement, the Environment Quality Act and other legislative provisions

Surveillance of agencies:

- Agence métropolitaine de transport

Other mandates:

- Examination of the report on the implementation of the Act to amend the Transport Act (2000) establishing the Forum des intervenants de l'industrie du camionnage général
- Election of the vice-chairman of the Committee

Select Committee

Consultation:

- Special consultation – choosing the site of the future Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal

THE ALLOWANCES AND AMOUNTS GRANTED TO MEMBERS IN 2004-2005

Wage bill of Members:

Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	$11,056,320

Other allowances:

Allowances for expenses, attendance and political activities	$2,688,926
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when Member leaves)	$142,678
Travel from electoral riding to the Parliament Building	$1,087,428
Lodging in or around Québec City	$1,342,090
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture or office equipment	$17,569
Electoral riding office operation expenses	$3,959,516

Other expenses:

	Members' staff	Office staff	Total
Wage bill	$10,841,010	$5,266,700	$16,107,710
Travel expenses	$257,734	$553,536	$811,270
Research services of political parties			$1,689,088

THE MANDATES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

The Secretary General

The Secretary General is the highest-ranking public servant of the Assembly and chief advisor to the President and the deputation in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, sees to the administration of routine business and carries out the other duties that are assigned to him by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

Office Secretariat Directorate

The Office Secretariat sees to the organization and follow-up of the proceedings of the Office of the National Assembly and informs the Members concerning their working conditions and the services that are available to them.

Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate

The Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate advises the Assembly in legal matters and provides all professional services regarding the drafting of private Members' bills and private bills.

Library Directorate

The Library Directorate is responsible for the conservation of parliamentary documents and the management and retrieval of archives. It maintains a collection which corresponds to the needs of current and future users. It carries out studies and conducts research relating to the mandates of parliamentarians and administrative branches, particularly in connection with the business of parliamentary committees.

Security Directorate

The Security Directorate counsels Assembly authorities on security measures and is responsible for the protection of persons and property and for the security of buildings and offices at the Assembly.

General Directorate of Parliamentary Affairs

The General Directorate of Parliamentary Affairs coordinates, plans, and supervises the activities of the parliamentary affairs directorates and assists the Secretary General in his role of advisor to the Chair of the Assembly.

House Secretariat Directorate

The House Secretariat ensures the preparation, proper conduct and follow-up of the sittings of the Assembly. It assists the Secretary General in the preparation and coordination of the opening and closing of sessions.

Committee Secretariat Directorate

The Committee Secretariat provides all professional and support services required by parliamentary committees for the organization and conduct of their activities.

Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate

The Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate assists the Secretary General in advising the President, the Assembly and the parliamentary committees on parliamentary procedure matters.

Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate

The Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate is responsible for providing all professional and technical services as regards the translation, revision, editing and printing of legislative texts and for answering the translation needs of other administrative units.

General Directorate of Institutional Affairs

The General Directorate of Institutional Affairs coordinates, plans and supervises the activities of the institutional affairs directorates and assists the Secretary General in managing the institutional affairs of the Assembly.

Communications Directorate

The Communications Directorate promotes outreach by informing the public on the role of the Assembly in democracy. It is responsible for the communications of the institution and provides services to the Press Gallery.

Educational Programmes Directorate

The Educational Programmes Directorate develops, organizes and conducts educational activities for target clienteles and provides professional and technical support during parliamentary simulations.

Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate

The Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate coordinates protocol activities and ceremonies at the Assembly and is responsible for visitors and information services, as well as for guided tours.

Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate

The Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate advises Assembly authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the Assembly in this area.

Associate General Secretariat for Administrative Affairs

The Associate General Secretariat for Administrative Affairs plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the administrative directorates. It also coordinates the deployment of information technologies at the Assembly.

Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate

The Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate is responsible for the broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and certain special events, and for the audio recording of debates for the purpose of transcribing, revising, editing and publishing the *Journal des débats* (Hansard).

Building Management Directorate

The Building Management Directorate provides all goods and services at the Assembly relating to the management and furnishing of buildings, and telecommunications.

Computer Services Directorate

The Computer Services Directorate is responsible for planning and providing advice and services in the area of office automation and computer systems (software, applications, equipment, training) and manages the computer population and the local and extended networks.

Financial Resources and Procurement Services Directorate

The Financial Resources and Procurement Services Directorate advises and provides services to the administrative units and the Members as regards financial management, budget planning and accounting operations. It also provides procurement services.

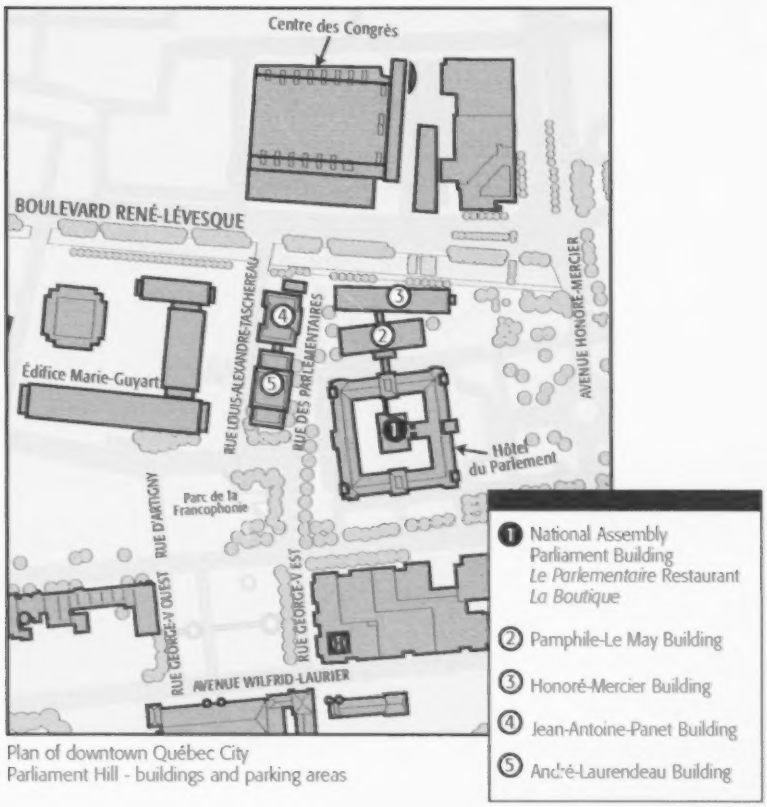
Human Resources Directorate

The Human Resources Directorate is responsible for all operations and support and counselling services relating to the management of human resources for the benefit of the administrative units and the Members.

Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate

The Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate provides support services to the Members and the administrative units, particularly as regards mail delivery and messenger services, printing, photocopying, the distribution of parliamentary documents, and office supplies. It is also responsible for food services and the management of restaurants at the Assembly.

SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Plan of downtown Québec City
Parliament Hill - buildings and parking areas

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Parliament Building, Québec City (Québec)
G1A 1A3

General information

Telephone: (418) 643-7239
Toll-free number: 1 866 DÉPUTÉS
(1 866 337-8837)
Fax: (418) 641-2638
www.assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS

Schedule*
Monday to Friday: from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
25 June to Labour Day:
Monday to Friday: from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays:
From 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more.

Information

Telephone: (418) 643-7239
Fax: (418) 641-2638
E-mail: accueil@assnat.qc.ca

LE PARLEMENTAIRE RESTAURANT

Opening hours*
Monday to Friday: from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Reservations

Telephone: (418) 643-6640
Fax: (418) 643-6378
E-mail: resto@assnat.qc.ca

LA BOUTIQUE

Opening hours*
Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

24 June to Labour Day:
Also open on weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Information

Telephone: (418) 643-8785
Fax: (418) 528-6022
E-mail: laboutique@assnat.qc.ca

*May be changed without notice

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